



not simple

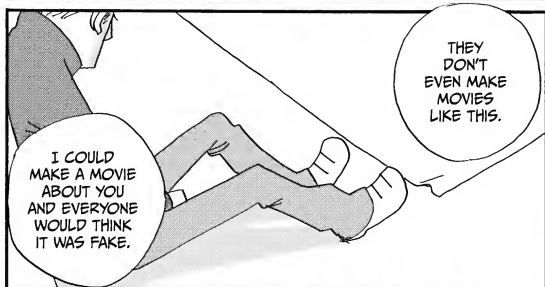
NATSUME ONO

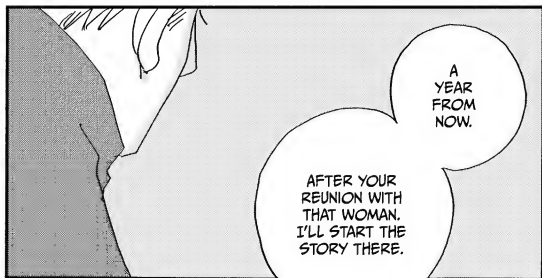


not simple

NATSUME ONO

prologue	003
#01	045
#02	065
#03	085
#04	113
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#07	159
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#11	237
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prologue

not simple







I JUST HAVE TO MAKE HIM THINK YOU'RE SOMEONE ELSE.

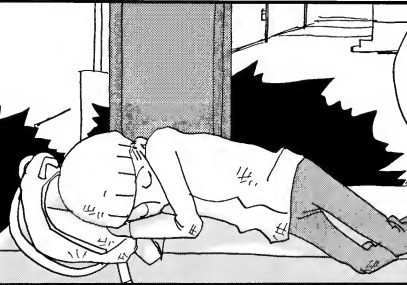
DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.



DON'T FORGET. YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE ME WITH YOU.



YOU BETTER NOT LEAVE WITHOUT ME.



DAD'LL LET HIS GUARD DOWN IF HE THINKS HE'S GOTTEN RID OF YOU.



...AND I'VE FOUND JUST THE GUY TO BE YOUR STAND-IN.



HE JUST
MIGHT NOT
EVER USE
HIS LEGS
AGAIN...

THAT'S
ALL.

I'LL ASK HIM
OUT RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
DAD'S GOONS
AND MAKE IT
LOOK LIKE
WE'RE SEEING
EACH OTHER.

GUTTER PUNKS.
HOMELESS
BECAUSE THEY
THINK IT'S
EASIER THAN
ACTUALLY
DOING ANY
WORK.

THERE
ARE SO
MANY
OF THEM
THESE
DAYS.

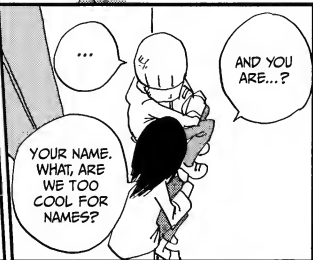
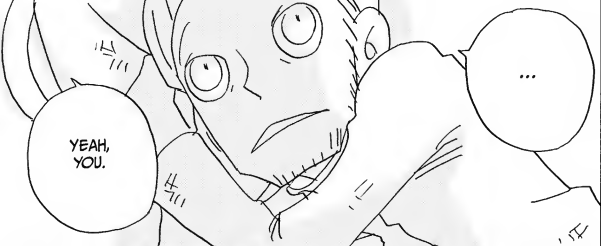


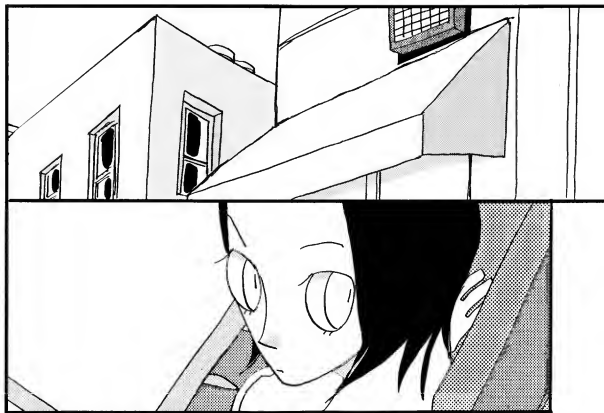
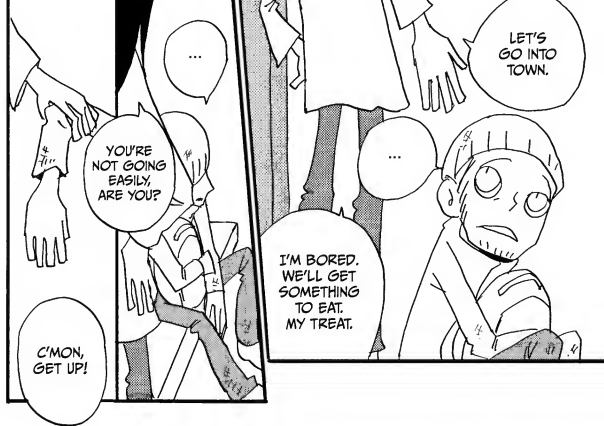
DAD
WON'T
ACTUALLY
KILL HIM.

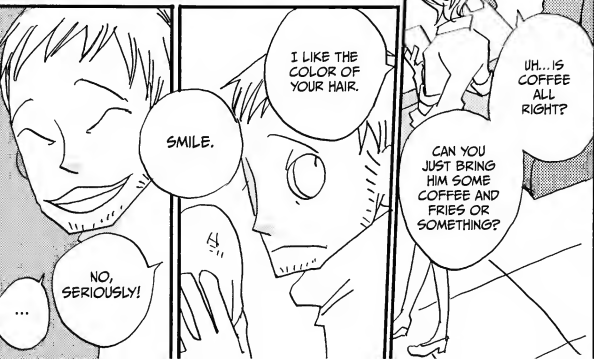
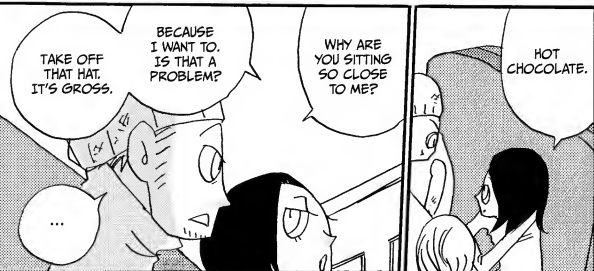
DON'T
WORRY.

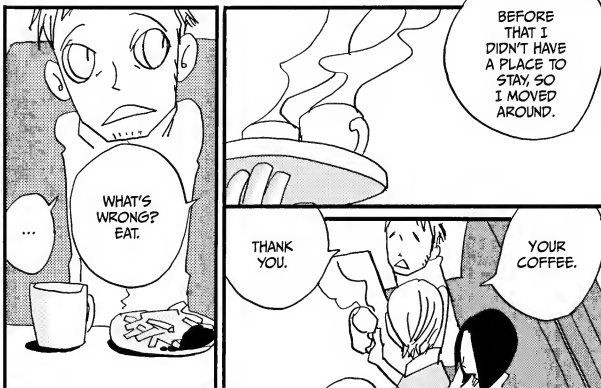


WAKE
UP.









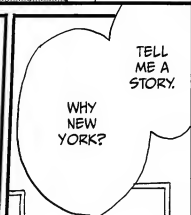


I DIDN'T
WANT TO
BE ALONE.

WHY ARE YOU
DOING THIS
FOR ME?



I HAVE
A FRIEND
THERE.



TELL
ME A
STORY.

WHY
NEW
YORK?



WE CAME
TOGETHER
FROM
AUSTRALIA.

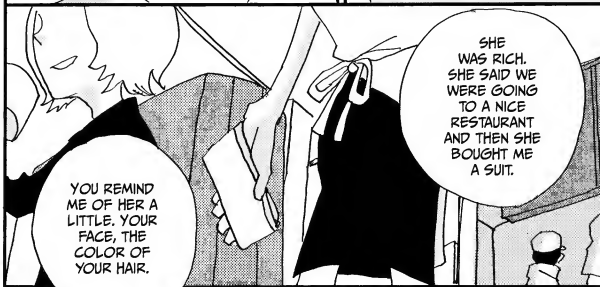
HE'S
WRITING
A NOVEL.

SO HE LET
ME STAY AT
HIS PLACE.

HE'S BEEN
LIVING IN
NEW YORK
FOR A
WHILE.

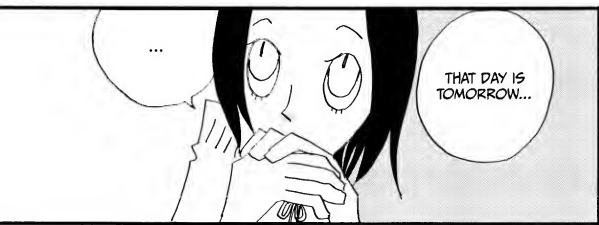


WOULDN'T
FLORIDA'VE
BEEN BETTER?
YEAR-ROUND
SUN AND ALL...





WHEN WE
PARTED WE
PROMISED
EACH OTHER
THAT WE'D MEET
AT THE SAME
PLACE, ON THE
SAME DAY, IN
THREE YEARS.



...

THAT DAY IS
TOMORROW...



YOU
MEAN
ELOPE?



YOU
REALLY
LIKE THIS
BOY?



MAYBE
YOU'RE
JUST
BORED.

MAYBE YOU
JUST WANT TO
BE DIFFERENT
FROM EVERY-
ONE ELSE.



YEAH.

HE'S
COMING
BACK
HERE FOR
WORK...

...BUT HE'S
TAKING ME
WITH HIM
WHEN HE
LEAVES.



I DON'T
WANT TO
TALK TO
YOU ANY-
MORE!

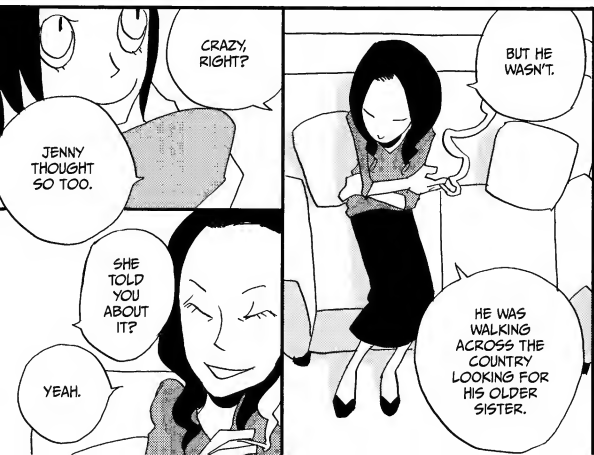
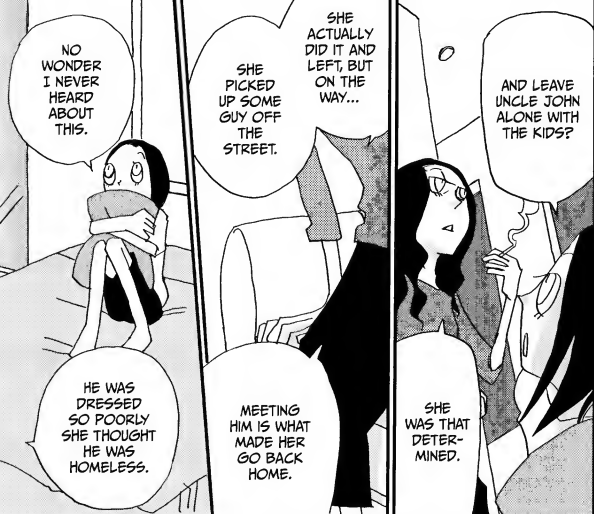
IF YOU'RE
NOT ON MY
SIDE, THEN
FORGET IT!

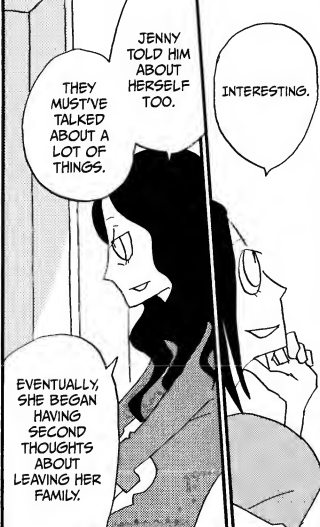
OR MAYBE
YOU JUST
WANT TO
GET AWAY
FROM DAD.



...YOU
KNOW, A
LONG TIME
AGO...

YOUR AUNT
JENNY TRIED
TO GET AWAY
LIKE YOU
ARE NOW.





THEY
MUST'VE
TALKED
ABOUT A
LOT OF
THINGS.

JENNY
TOLD HIM
ABOUT
HERSELF
TOO.

INTERESTING.

EVENTUALLY,
SHE BEGAN
HAVING
SECOND
THOUGHTS
ABOUT
LEAVING HER
FAMILY.



AND HE
URGED HER
NOT TO
RUN AWAY.



AND
SO SHE
DECIDED
TO STAY.



IT HAD
BEEN
OVER TEN
YEARS
SINCE HE'D
SEEN HIS
SISTER.

ALL HE KNEW
WAS THAT SHE
WAS SOMEWHERE
IN AMERICA,
AND HE WALKED
FROM STATE TO
STATE FOR HALF
A YEAR TRYING
TO FIND HER.



IT
TURNED
OUT HIS
SISTER...

... WAS
POSSIBLY
HIS MOTHER,
WHICH IS WHY
HE WAS SO
DRIVEN TO
FIND HER.



SHE TOLD
ME THEY
MADE A
PROMISE
WHEN THEY
PARTED.



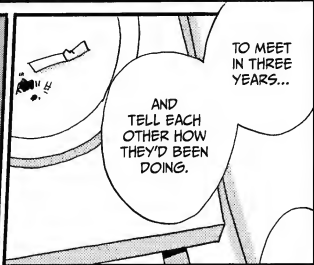
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
GUY?



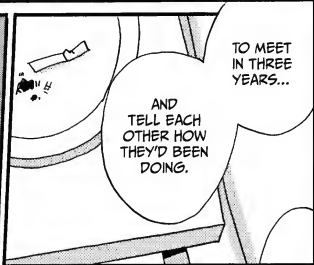
BUT SHE
DIDN'T
WANT IT.



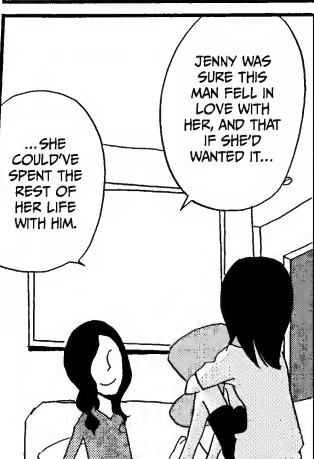
HE WAS
MORE THAN
TEN YEARS
YOUNGER
THAN HER.



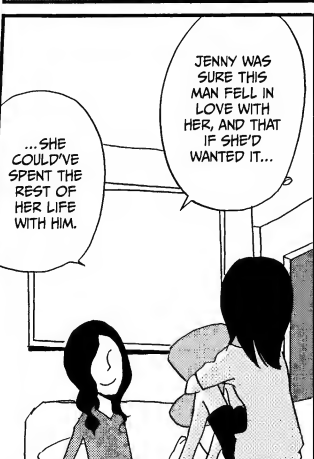
TO MEET
IN THREE
YEARS...



AND
TELL EACH
OTHER HOW
THEY'D BEEN
DOING.



JENNY WAS
SURE THIS
MAN FELL IN
LOVE WITH
HER, AND THAT
IF SHE'D
WANTED IT...



...SHE
COULD'VE
SPENT THE
REST OF
HER LIFE
WITH HIM.



SHE DID SAY,
THOUGH, THAT
THE NEXT TIME
THEY MET SHE
WAS SURE
SHE'D LEAVE
WITH HIM.

YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT DAY
SPECIFICALLY,
THEN?

IT'LL BE
THREE YEARS
THIS YEAR.

DID THEY
EVER MEET
AGAIN?

SHE
DIDN'T
TELL
ME.

SHE
MUST'VE
BEEN
DISAP-
POINTED.

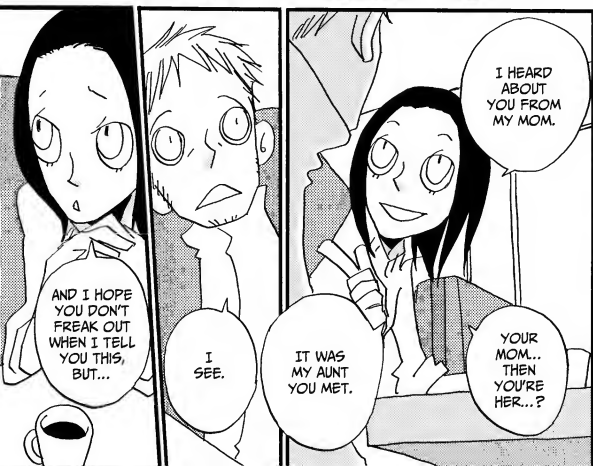
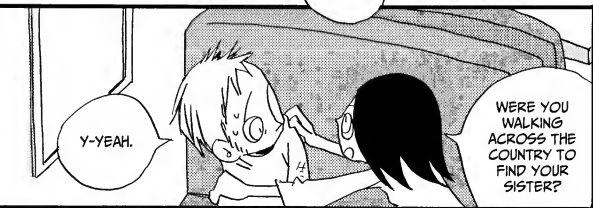
BUT OF
COURSE,
JENNY'S NO
LONGER
WITH US.

HE
COULD
BE DEAD
TOO.

WHO
KNOWS
IF HE'LL
EVEN
SHOW.

IF YOU
WANT TO DO
SOMETHING
DRASTIC, DO IT
WHILE YOU'RE
STILL YOUNG,
IRENE.

IT WON'T
BE AS
EASY WHEN
YOU'RE
OLDER.





IN AN
ACCIDENT.

MY AUNT
DIED LAST
YEAR.



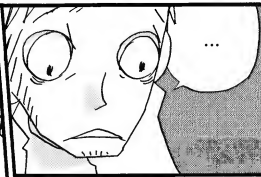
I'LL TAKE
YOU THERE
TOMORROW.

I'LL
BORROW
MOM'S
CAR.



IS HER
GRAVE...
NEARBY?

IT'S
A BIT
OF A
WAYS.



...

DON'T
LOOK AT ME
LIKE THAT.

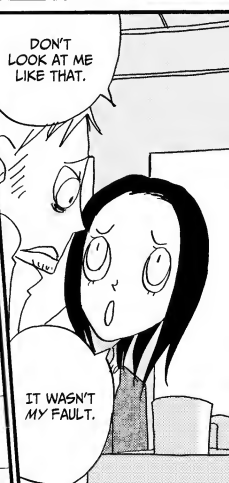


THANK
YOU.

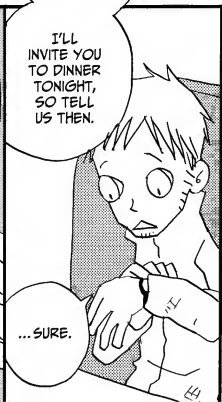


...CAN
I GO
VISIT IT?

OF
COURSE.
SHE'D
LIKE THAT.



IT WASN'T
MY FAULT.





BUT MAKE
IT QUICK.
AND DON'T
GO TOO
FAR.

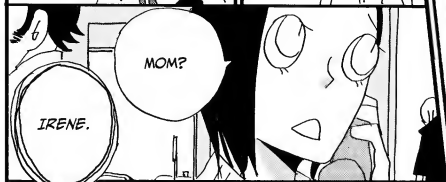
THERE'S
ONE
IN THE
DINER.



WHAT
DID
YOU
NEED
TO
DO?

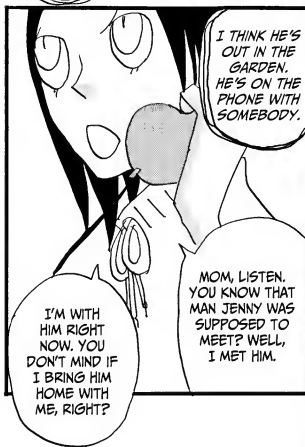
I HAVE
TO MAKE
A CALL.

BATH-
ROOM.



MOM?

IRENE.



I THINK HE'S
OUT IN THE
GARDEN.
HE'S ON THE
PHONE WITH
SOMEBODY.

MOM, LISTEN.
YOU KNOW THAT
MAN JENNY WAS
SUPPOSED TO
MEET? WELL,
I MET HIM.

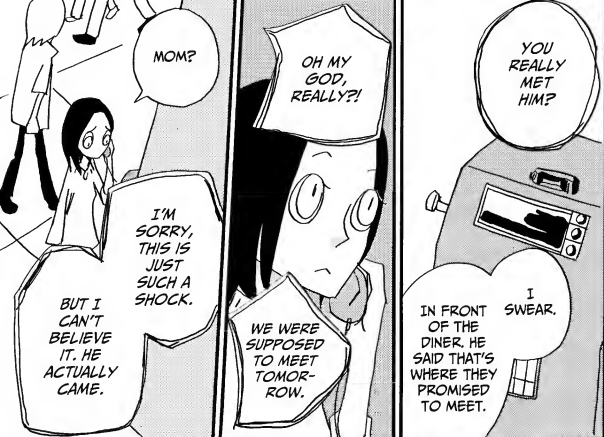
I'M WITH
HIM RIGHT
NOW. YOU
DON'T MIND IF
I BRING HIM
HOME WITH
ME, RIGHT?

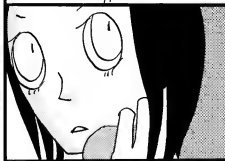


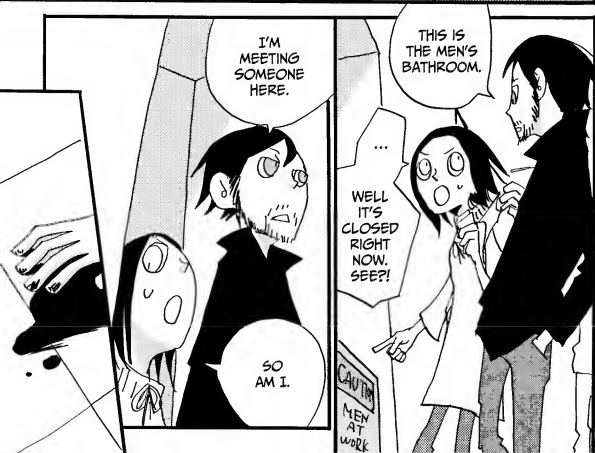
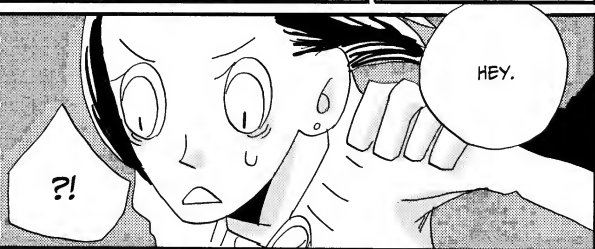
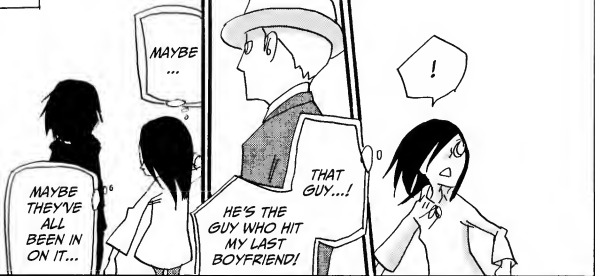
WHERE
ARE
YOU?

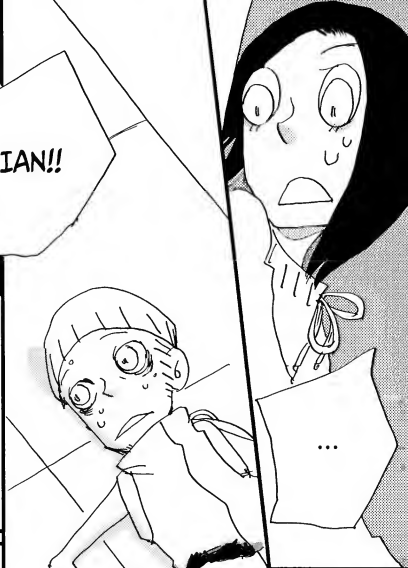
YOU KNOW
IF YOU LEAVE
YOUR DAD
ALONE SOME-
THING'LL
HAPPEN TO
YOUR BOY-
FRIEND.

CAN
YOU PUT
DAD
ON THE
LINE?

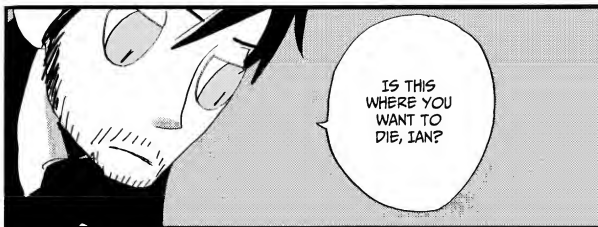
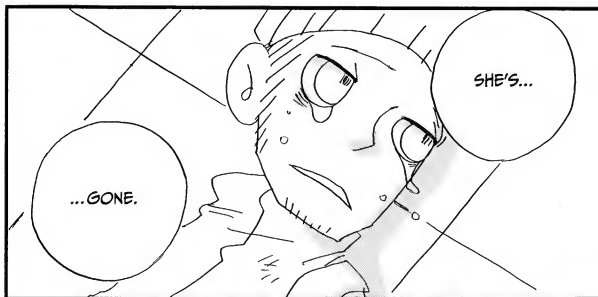












I...
DAD SAID
HE WOULD
KILL MY
BOY-
FRIEND...

I THOUGHT...
IF I COULD
MAKE HIM THINK
I WAS DATING
SOME RANDOM
STRANGER...
SOME HOME-
LESS KID...

IT'S MY
FAULT.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
DAD WOULD
GO THIS
FAR.

SHE'S...
GONE...

...

BUT I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
ONLY
KIDDING
WHEN HE
SAID HE'D
KILL HIM.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HE WAS
PREPARED
TO DIE IF
HE DIDN'T.

MEETING
HER...

WAS THE
ONLY THING
LEFT FOR
HIM TO DO.

THAT'S
A HELL
OF A
STORY.



MY
MOTHER'S
ALIVE.

SHE
WANTS
TO SEE
HIM!

NOW THAT
SHE'S GONE,
LIFE HAS NO
MEANING
FOR HIM.

BUT SHE'S
NOT DEAD!
I MEAN,
IT WASN'T
MY AUNT!



MELODRAMA
TO THE
VERY END...



...



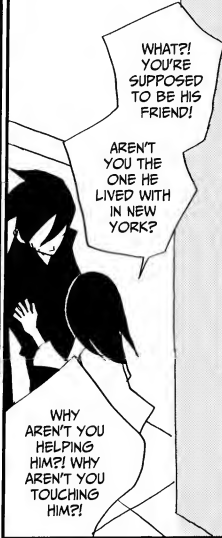
IT
WAS MY
MOTHER
AND SHE
LIED
TO ME.



BESIDES,
LOOK AT HIM.
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S A
LITTLE LATE?



LOOK. HE
DOESN'T
HAVE THE
WILL TO LIVE
ANYMORE.
THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO.



WHAT?!
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE HIS
FRIEND!

AREN'T
YOU THE
ONE HE
LIVED WITH
IN NEW
YORK?

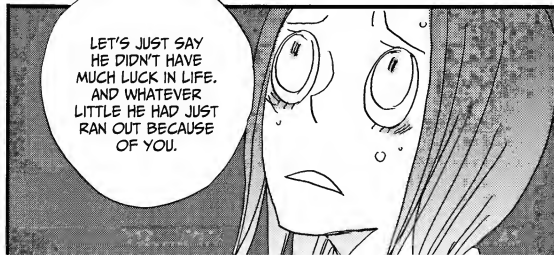
... YOU
KNOW ALL
ABOUT
HIM, DON'T
YOU?

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE'S
HIS SISTER?

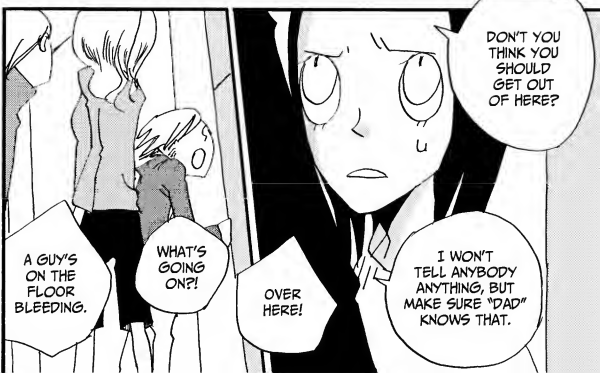
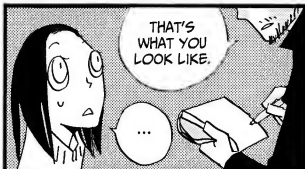
WHY
AREN'T YOU
HELPING
HIM?! WHY
AREN'T YOU
TOUCHING
HIM?!



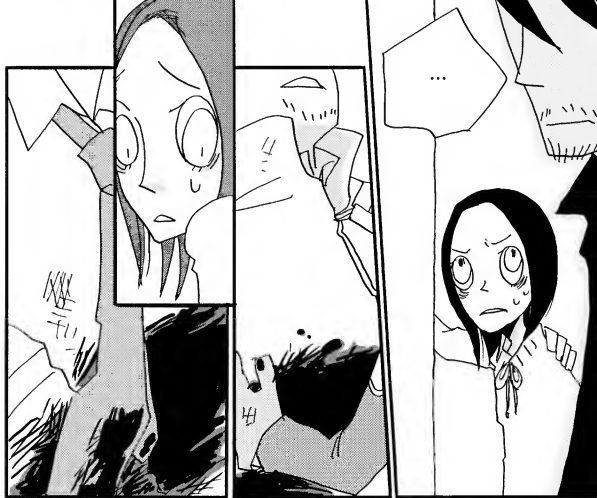
I CAN'T
TELL YOU.

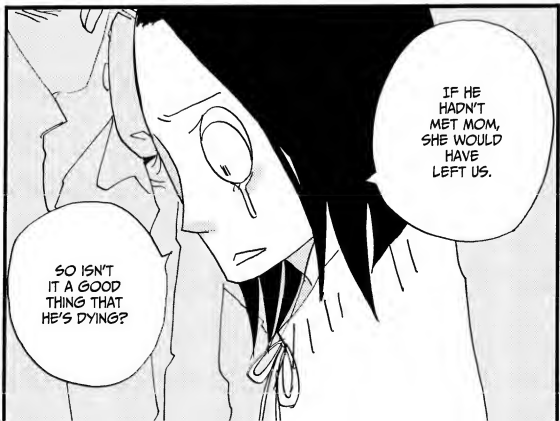
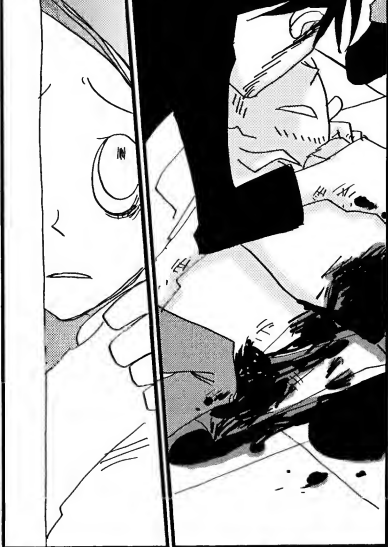


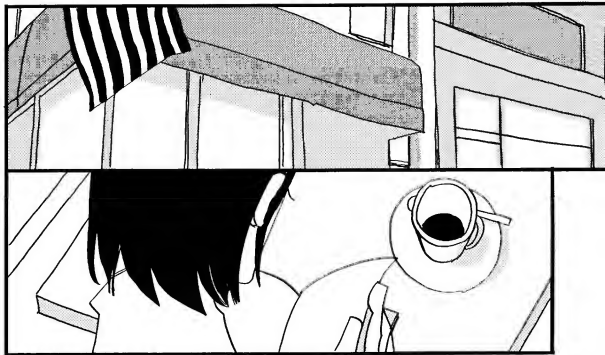
LET'S JUST SAY
HE DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH LUCK IN LIFE.
AND WHATEVER
LITTLE HE HAD JUST
RAN OUT BECAUSE
OF YOU.

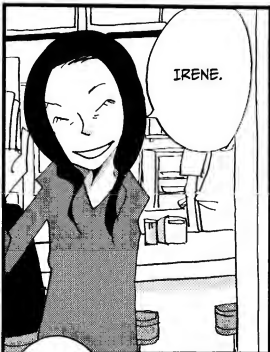
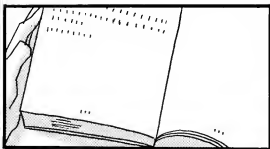
















IN THE BOOK,
THE WRITER
KILLS HIMSELF
A YEAR AFTER
THE GUY DIES.



IT'S ABOUT
THIS REALLY
UNLUCKY GUY WHO
FINALLY HITS ROCK
BOTTOM AND
ENDS UP GETTING
KILLED IN A CASE OF
MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

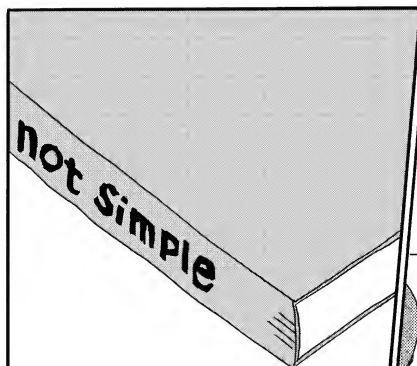
WHAT'S IT
ABOUT?



AND HERE'S
THE THING. THE
MAN WRITING THE
STORY IS GAY.
AND HE HANGS
AROUND THIS OTHER
GUY AND JUST
OBSERVES HIM.



THE RUMOR
IS THAT THE
NOVEL'S
ACTUALLY A
THINLY VEILED
MEMOIR.



AND NOW
THEY'RE
SAYING THE
REAL WRITER
DISAPPEARED,
RIGHT?

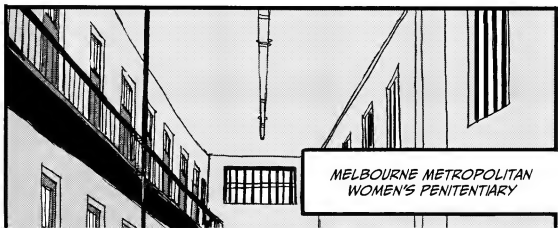
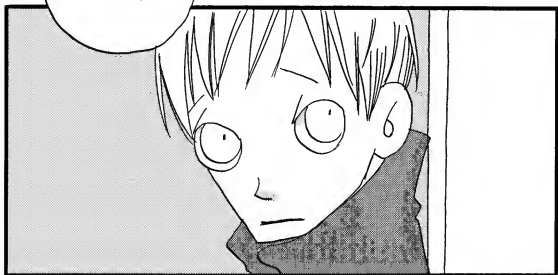
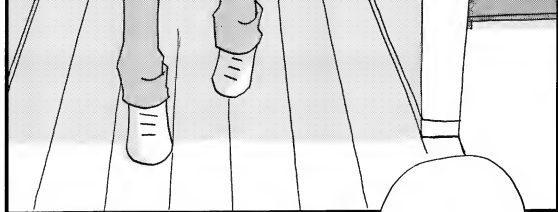
THAT'S
WHAT MY
WIFE SAID.

THAT HE
MIGHT
BE DEAD.

#01

not simple







...THAT YOU
WERE JACKING
STUFF BECAUSE
YOU NEEDED
MONEY TO LIVE
WITH YOUR
BROTHER?

DIDN'T
YOU SAY
BEFORE...

I DON'T
WANNA
SEE
ANYONE
ELSE
ANYWAY.

HE'S
ALL I
NEED.

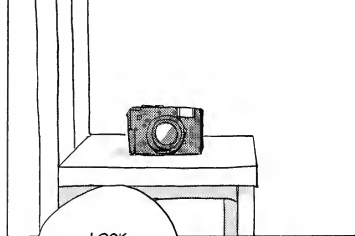
HE'S
STILL
YOUNG,
AIN'T
HE?

MAYBE
HE'S
BETTER
OFF AT
HOME.
CLOSE
TO HIS
PARENTS
...

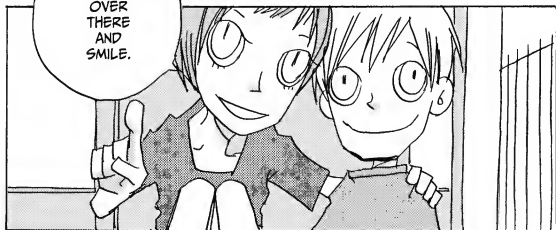
I'M
TAKING
HIM AND
GETTING
OUT OF
TOWN.

WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO WHEN
YOU'RE
RELEASED
?

TO HELL
WITH THAT
FAMILY.



LOOK
OVER
THERE
AND
SMILE.



LET'S TAKE
ANOTHER
ONE SOON.

OKAY.

CAN
I GO
RUNNING
NOW?

SURE. BE
CAREFUL.

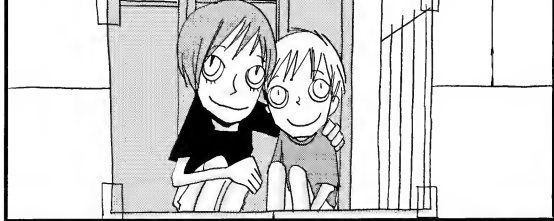


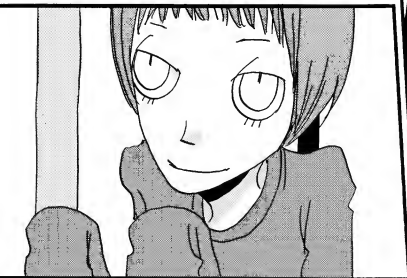
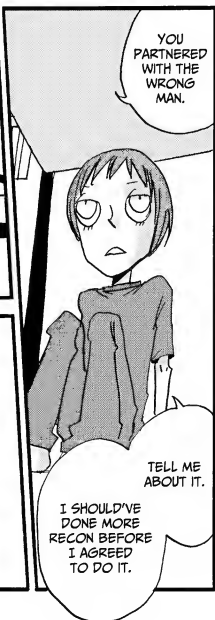
I WONDER
IF IT'LL
COME OUT
ALL RIGHT?

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
HAVE MOM
TAKE IT?

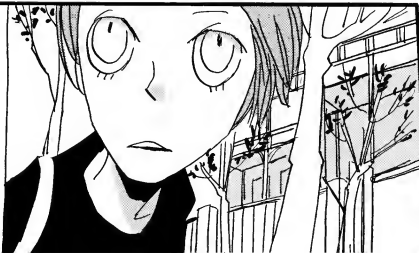
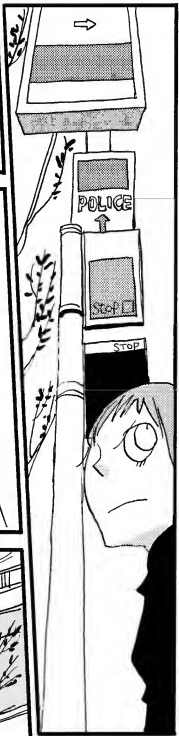
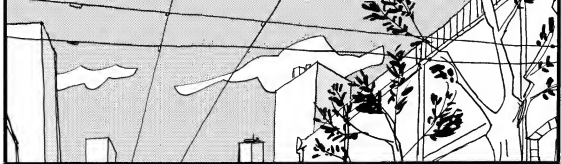
DAD'S
HERE
TODAY
TOO.

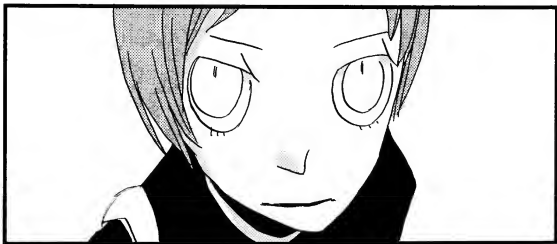
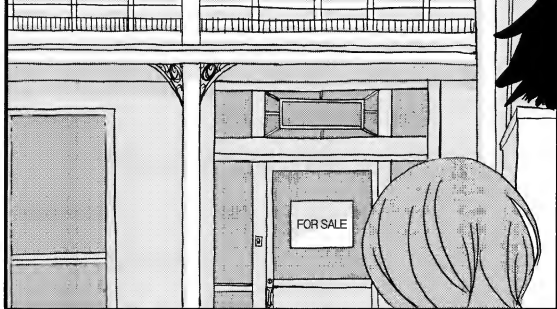
I CAN'T
SMILE RIGHT
WHEN THOSE
PEOPLE ARE
AROUND.

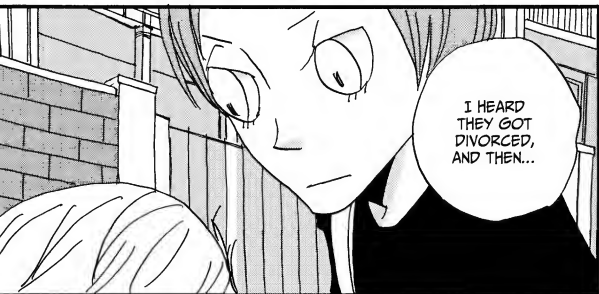
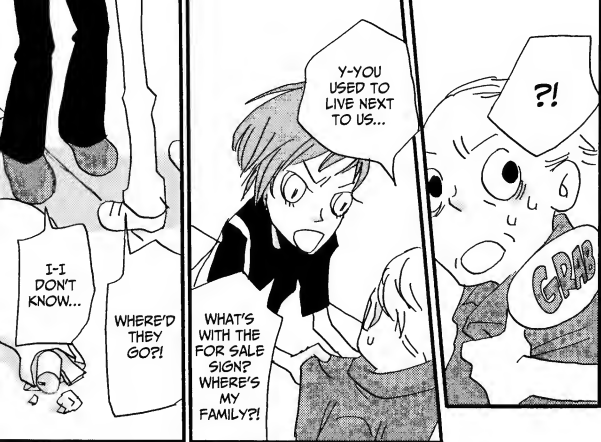


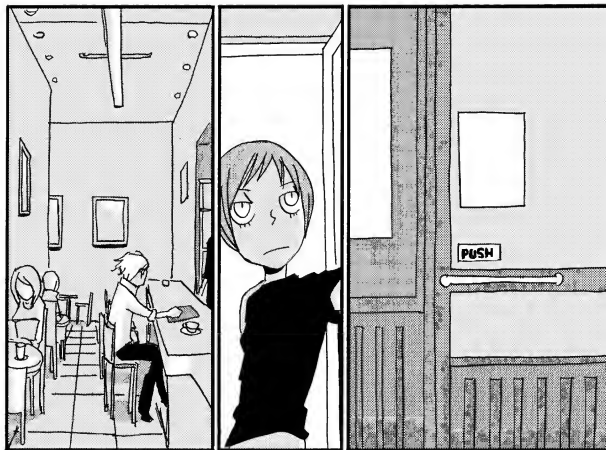










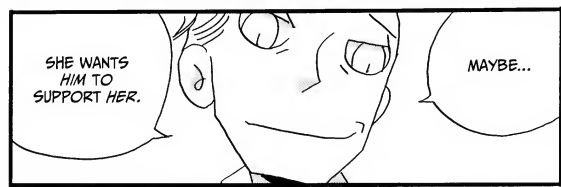








A DRUNK
LIKE HER
COULD
NEVER
SUPPORT
HIM!!



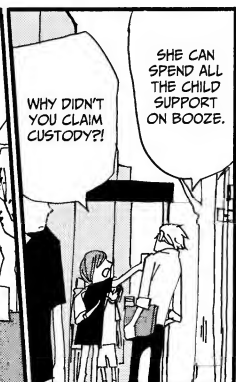
SHE WANTS
HIM TO
SUPPORT HER.

MAYBE...



MY NEW
WIFE
DOESN'T
LIKE
CHILDREN.

DON'T
GIVE
ME
THAT!



WHY DIDN'T
YOU CLAIM
CUSTODY?!

SHE CAN
SPEND ALL
THE CHILD
SUPPORT
ON BOOZE.



AN
ALCOHOLIC
...

WITH ZERO
ABILITY
TO MAKE A
LIVING...

AND, MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
SHE'S NOT
EVEN HIS
BIOLOGICAL
MOTHER.



YOU
WANT TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH?

THE TRUTH
IS SHE JUST
TOOK IAN AND
WENT BACK
TO ENGLAND.



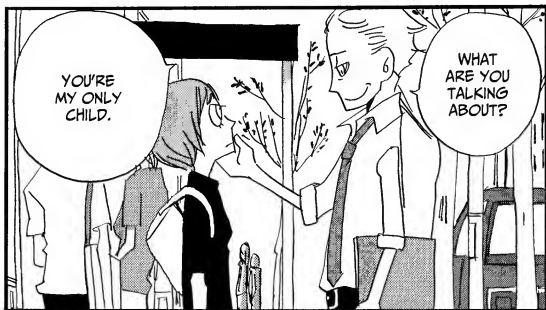
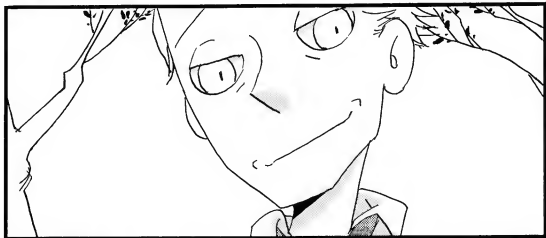
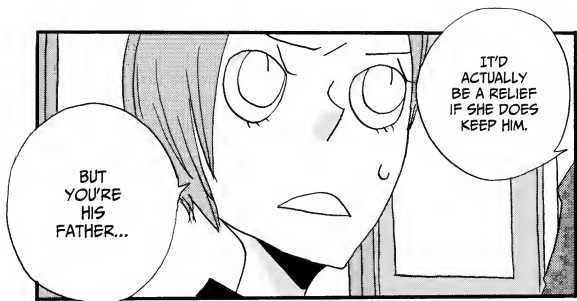
DO YOU
THINK THEY'D
ACTUALLY
GIVE HER
CUSTODY?

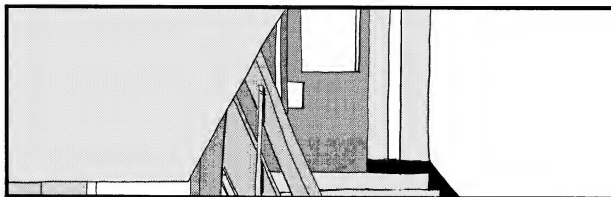
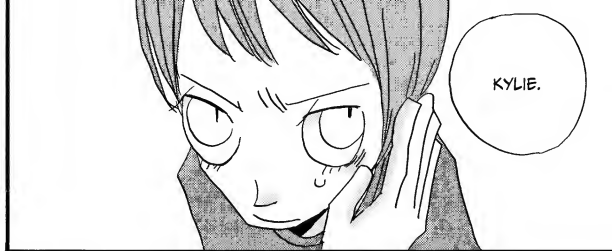


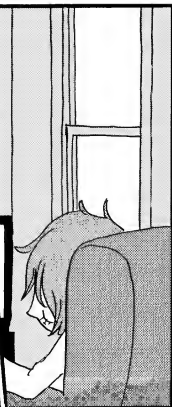
HAVE YOU
TRIED TO
GET HIM
BACK?

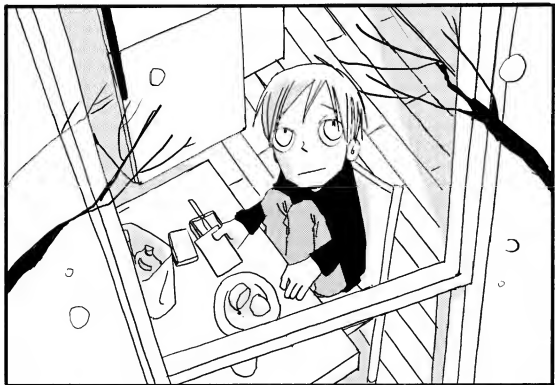
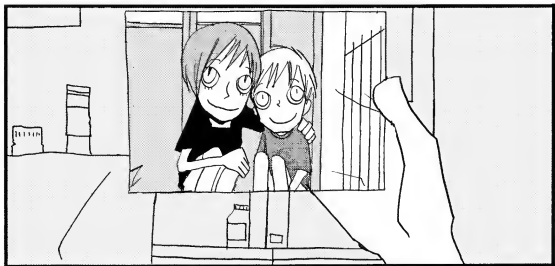
I REALLY
AM GETTING
REMARIED.

NO,
I'VE
BEEN
BUSY.

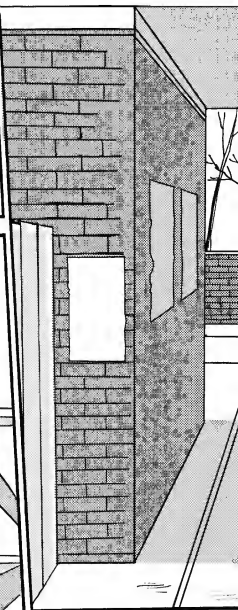




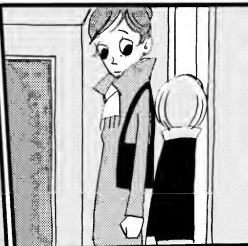
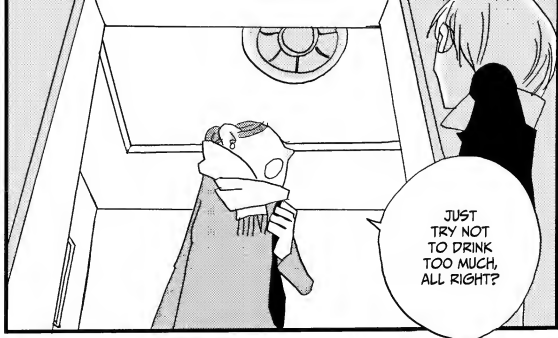


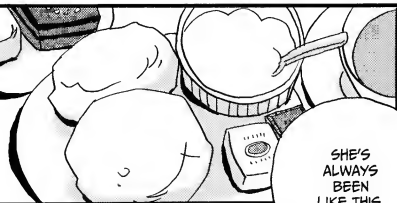












SHE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN
LIKE THIS.



EVERYTHING
SHE'S DONE
HAS BEEN ON
THE SPUR OF
THE MOMENT.

EVEN HER
DIVORCE.
I HAD NO
IDEA.

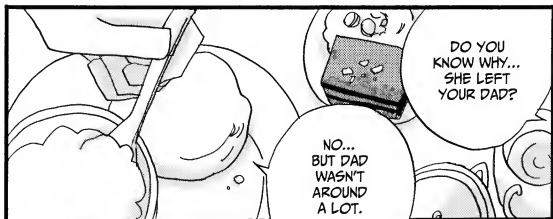


I CAN TRY
AND HELP,
BUT I CAN'T
RESCUE HER...
ANY MONEY I
GIVE HER GOES
STRAIGHT TO
THE BOTTLE.

I HAVE A
FAMILY OF
MY OWN.

THEN
SHE COMES
BACK OUT
OF NOWHERE
ASKING ME
FOR MONEY.







NEXT
TIME I'LL
TELL HER
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
YOU TOO.

I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
CALL
AGAIN.

I
THINK
SO.

BUT WHY
WAS SHE
ROBBING
STORES?

IS SHE
HERE?



YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT
EITHER?

...



YOUR
MOTHER
TOLD
ME NOT TO
TELL ANYONE,
SO I TOLD
YOUR SISTER
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHERE YOU
WERE.

BUT I
SHOULDN'T
BE KEEPING
QUIET.



THE
BUTCHER
LETS ME
DO SOME
ODD JOBS
FOR HIM.



THAT'S
NOT
THE WAY
HOME,
IAN.

BECAUSE
MOM
SPENDS THE
GROCERY
MONEY ON
ALCOHOL.

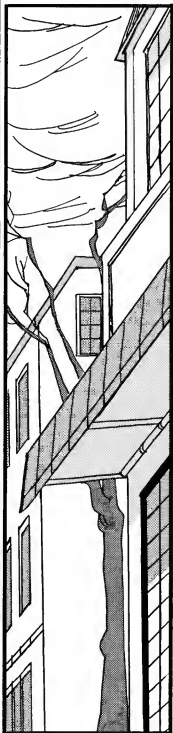


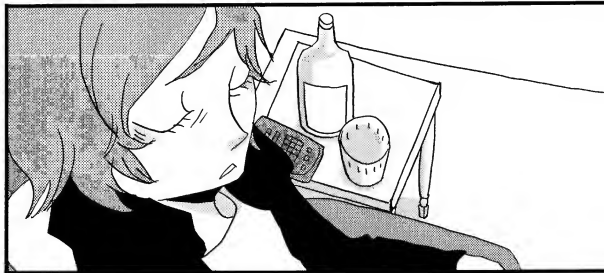
HOW
COMMENDABLE.

...



I HAVE
TO GET
IN TOUCH
WITH KYLIE
SOON...









BY THE
WAY, WHY
DID THEY
DIVORCE?

IAN? HE'S
HERE TOO.
MM...HE'S
DOING ALL
RIGHT.



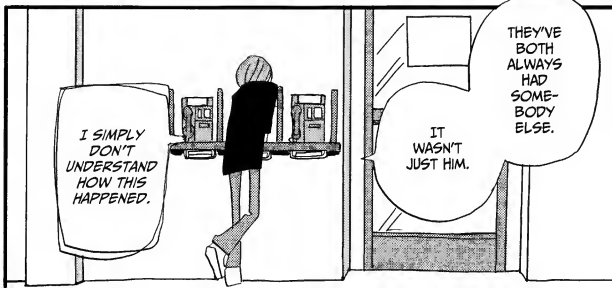
MM-HM.

SHE'S
HERE.



IT WAS
THE BOTH
OF 'EM.

BECAUSE
OF HIS
AFFAIR?



I SIMPLY
DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW THIS
HAPPENED.

IT
WASN'T
JUST HIM.

THEY'VE
BOTH
ALWAYS
HAD
SOME-
BODY
ELSE.

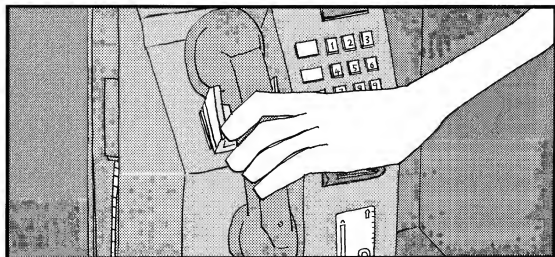
ANYWAY,
THANKS.

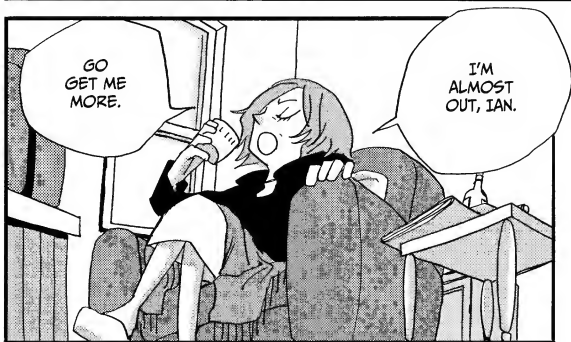
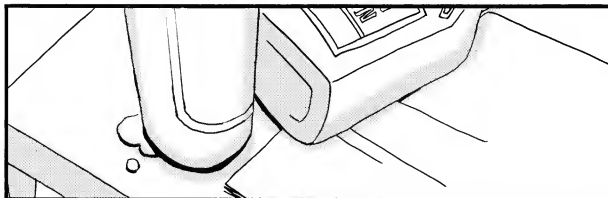
I WONDER
WHERE
THEY WENT
WRONG...

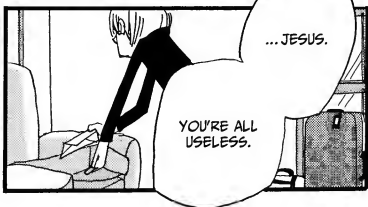
THEY
WERE SO
IN LOVE
WHEN
THEY GOT
MARRIED.

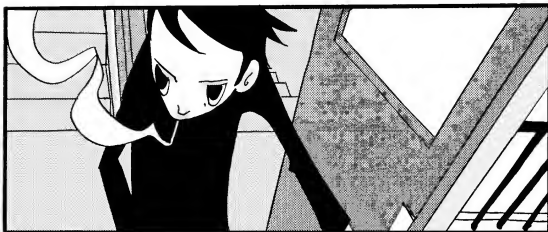
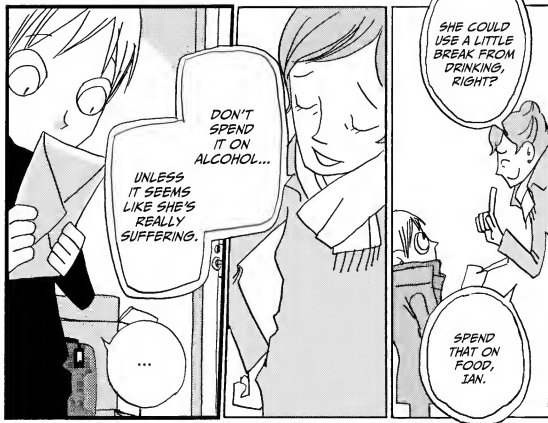
IT WAS
REALLY
ENVIABLE.

I'LL TRY
TO BE
THERE AS
SOON AS
I CAN.





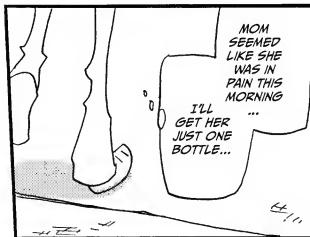








...I ONLY
WORK
WITH KIDS
IN THEIR
TWENTIES.



...I
CAN'T
HELP
YOU.

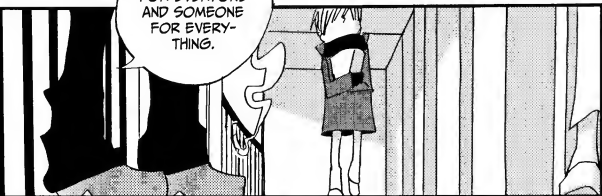
I CAN TELL
YOU HAD IT
GOING ON
BACK IN
THE DAY...

BUT AT
YOUR
AGE...

...WILL A
BOY DO?

WHEN
YOU SAY
KIDS...

THERE'S
SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE
AND SOMEONE
FOR EVERY-
THING.



YOU
SURE?

ISN'T
HE YOUR
SON?



THEN COULD
YOU FIND A
CUSTOMER
FOR HIM?



#03

not simple







DON'T
YOU BE
LOOKING
AT ME
LIKE THAT.

STAY
HERE.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
SIGN SOME
PAPERS.

I SAID
HE'S
YOURS.

HIS OWN
MOTHER'S
SAYING IT'S
FINE, SO
IT'S FINE.



YOU'RE
STARTING
TO LOOK
MORE AND
MORE
LIKE HIM.

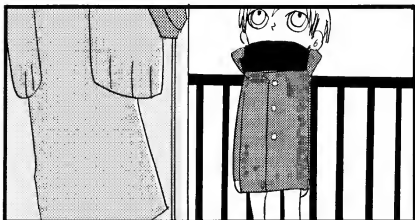




BECAUSE
DAD IS DAD.

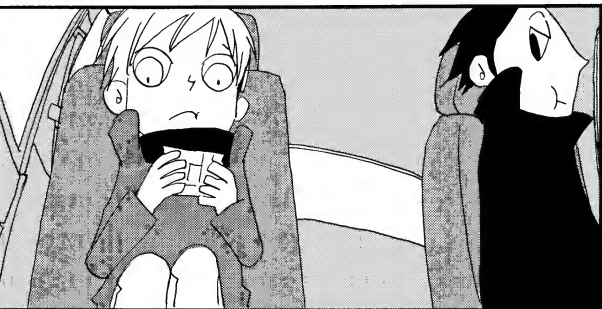
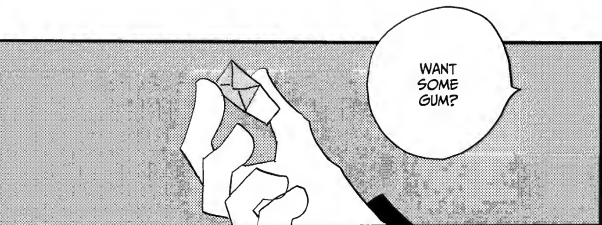


LIKE
DAD? OF
COURSE
I AM.



...I DON'T
LIKE YOU.











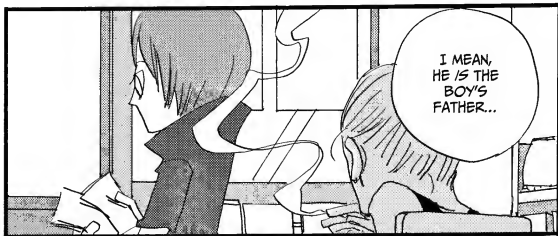
BUT WHY
AREN'T YOU
MAKING
YOUR DAD
PAY? TO GO
PICK HIM UP,
I MEAN.

ANYTHING
FOR A
FRIEND. YOU
KNOW I'M
ALWAYS HERE
FOR YOU.



IS THIS
ENOUGH?

THANKS.
I OWE
YOU ONE.

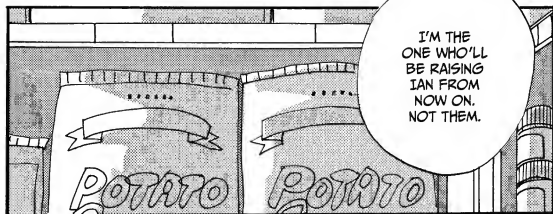


I MEAN,
HE *IS* THE
BOY'S
FATHER...



I JUST
DON'T
WANT TO
ASK HIM.

HE'D
PAY IF I
ASKED
HIM TO.



I'M THE
ONE WHO'LL
BE RAISING
IAN FROM
NOW ON.
NOT THEM.



I'LL TRY
TO PAY
YOU BACK
AS SOON
AS I CAN.

I HOPE
YOU TWO
CAN FINALLY
FIND SOME
PEACE.



...BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
HER?

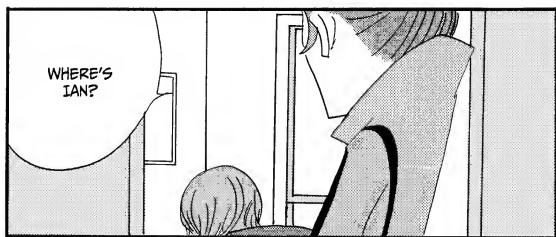


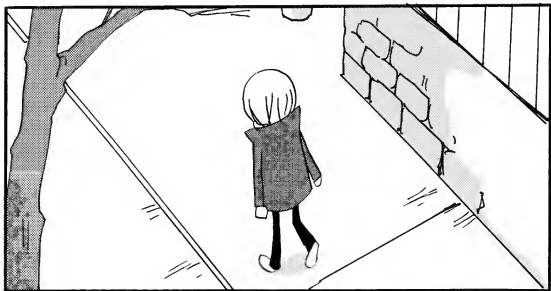
AS FOR IAN...
IT'LL BE HARD
ON HIM AT
FIRST, BUT
I THINK HE'LL
BE HAPPIER
IN THE END.

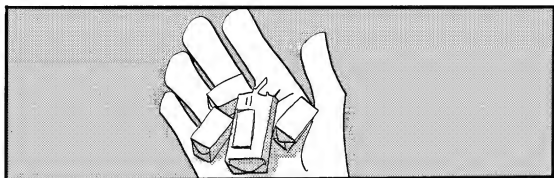
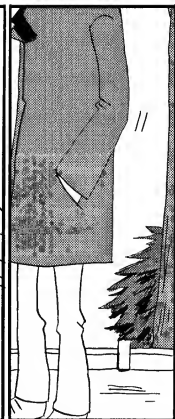
...I'M NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT FOR
MYSELF.

THAT
BASTARD'S
OFF LIVING
HIS OWN
LIFE WITH-
OUT A
CARE...











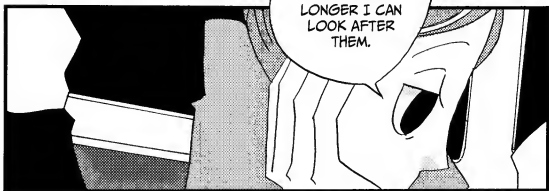
HE SAID
HE WAS
HELPING
OUT AT THE
BUTCHER'S.

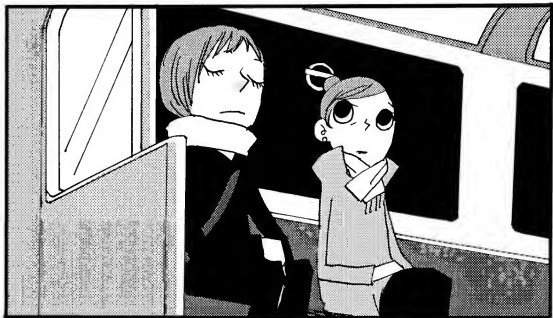
IAN'S
WORKING?

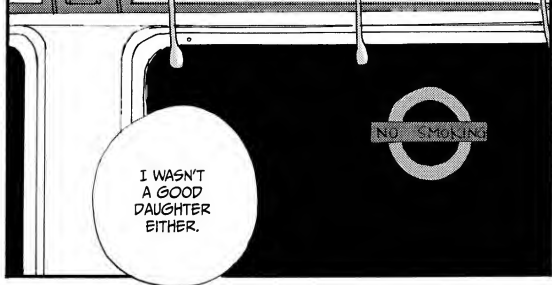


MY SISTER'S
DRINKING
MORE AND
MORE...

HONESTLY,
I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH
LONGER I CAN
LOOK AFTER
THEM.









YOU
GOT HERE
FASTER
THAN I
EXPECTED.

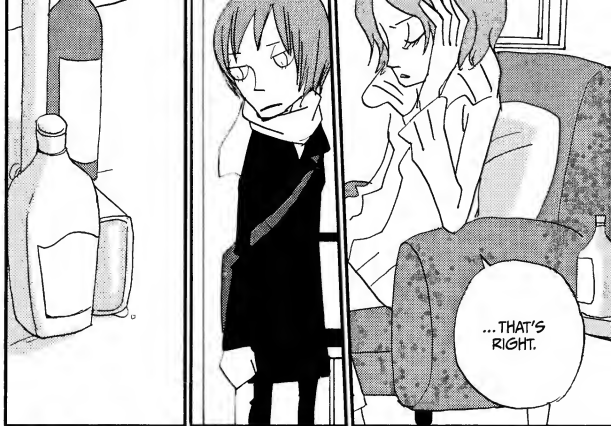
I THOUGHT
IT'D TAKE YOU
LONGER.

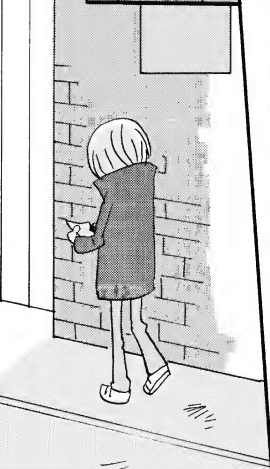
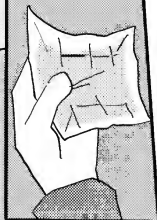
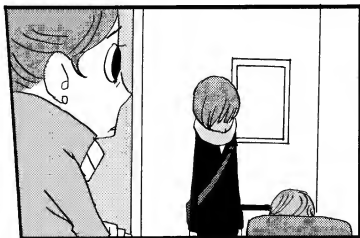


I WAS HOPING
TO WORK THAT
CUTE "LITTLE
BROTHER" OF
YOURS AS LONG
AS I COULD.



YOU TOOK
IAN WITH
YOU TO GET
BACK AT ME,
DIDN'T YOU?









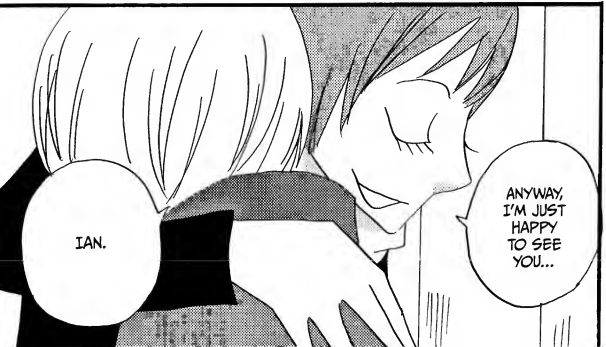
UM...
I HIT A
DOOR...



HOW'D
YOU GET
THIS?

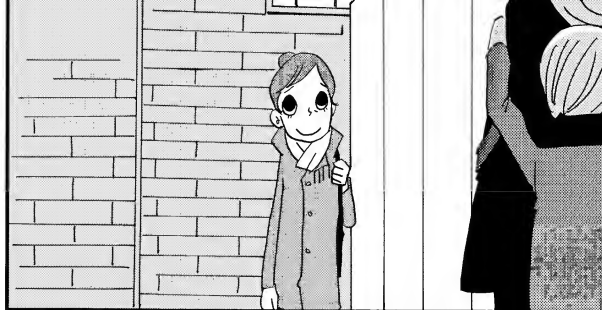


pat



IAN.

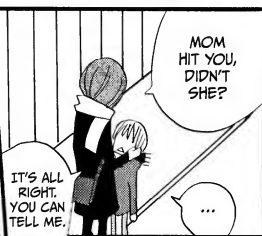
ANYWAY,
I'M JUST
HAPPY
TO SEE
YOU...



I...

DIDN'T
WANT TO
LEAVE
MELBOURNE.

BUT I
THOUGHT
MOM'D BE
LONELY,
SO I CAME
WITH HER.



MOM
HIT YOU,
DIDN'T
SHE?

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.
YOU CAN
TELL ME.

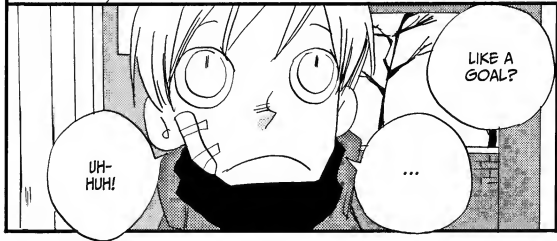
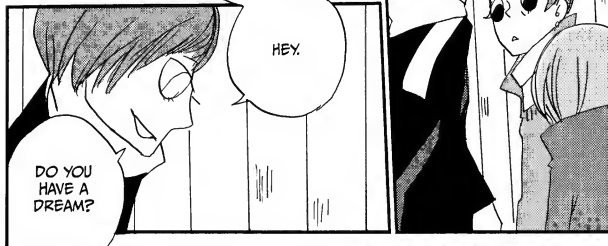
...

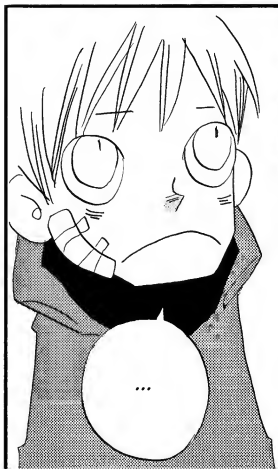


I TOLD HER
I WANTED TO
GO BACK TO
MELBOURNE.

SHE
WAS IN
A BAD
MOOD
AND...









OKAY!

IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T LIKE
THE KID.

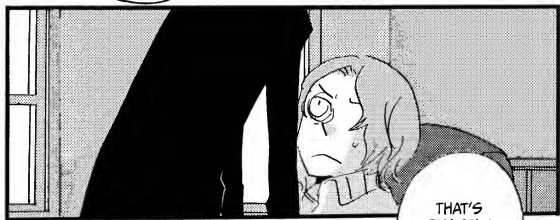
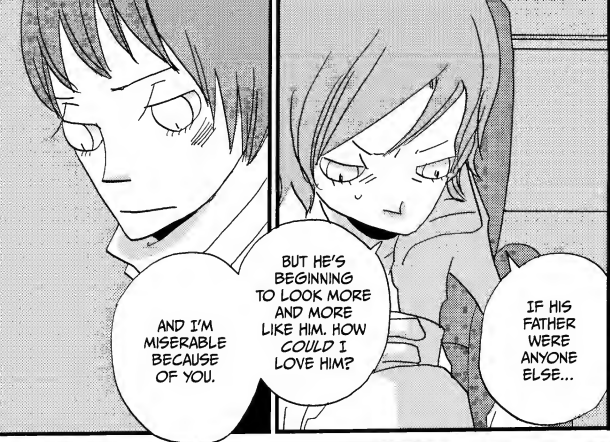
WE'RE
RELATED,
AFTER
ALL.

I
COULDA
LOVED
HIM.



WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
LEFT
YET?

AUNTIE
GAVE ME
THE KEY.





I'LL BE
WITH YOU
UNTIL
YOU DIE.

I'LL
LOOK
AFTER
YOU.

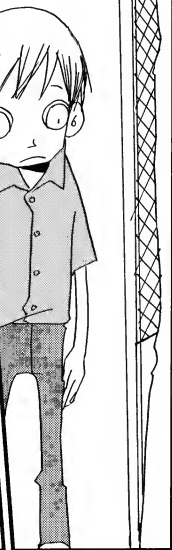
I'LL DO
ANYTHING.



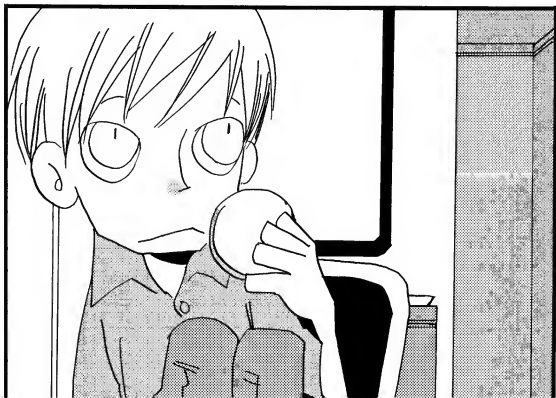
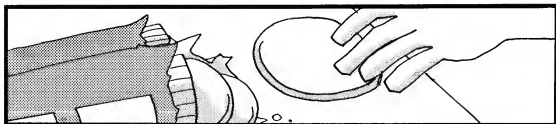
#04

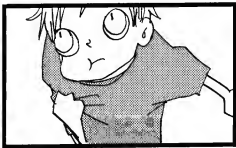
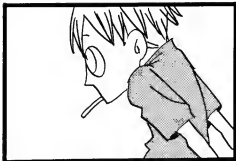
not simple

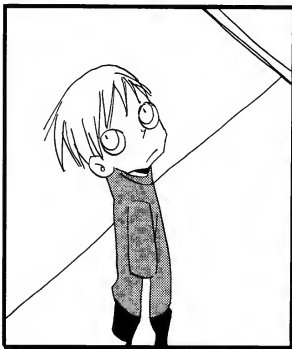
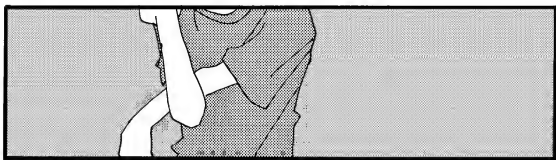


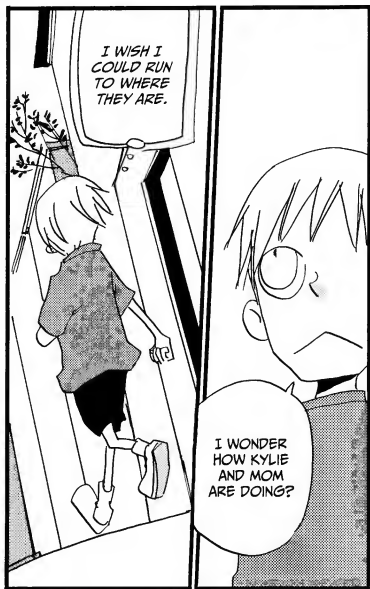
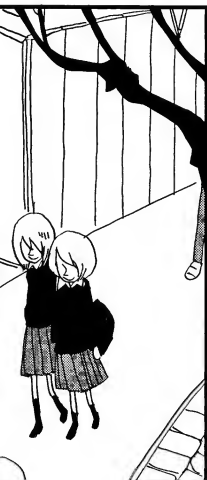


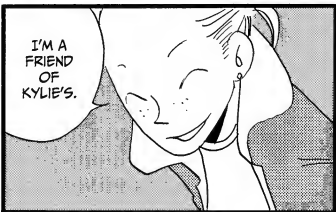


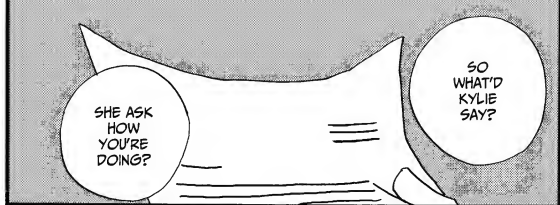






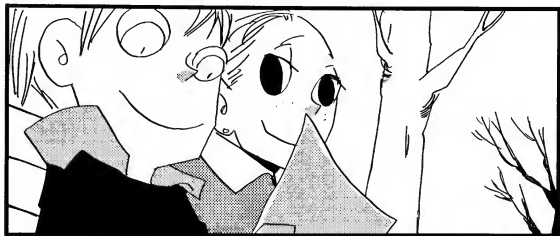






SHE ASK
HOW
YOU'RE
DOING?

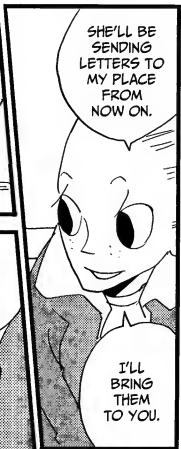
SO
WHAT'D
KYLIE
SAY?



ANY
PROBLEMS?

HOW
ARE
THINGS?

LIVING
WITH
YOUR
DAD?



SHE'LL BE
SENDING
LETTERS TO
MY PLACE
FROM
NOW ON.

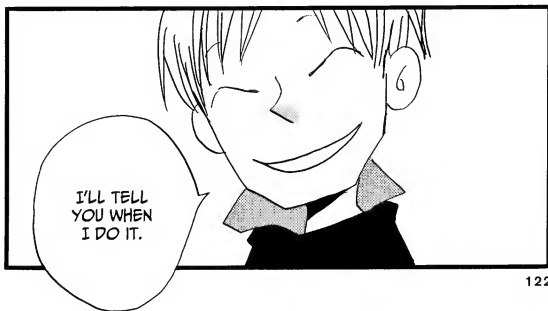
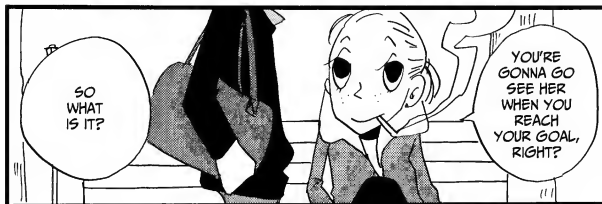
I'LL
BRING
THEM
TO YOU.

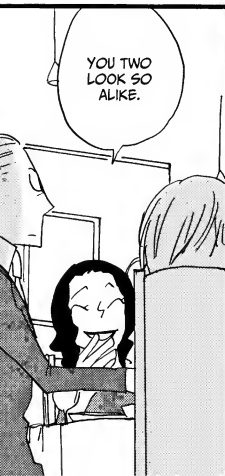
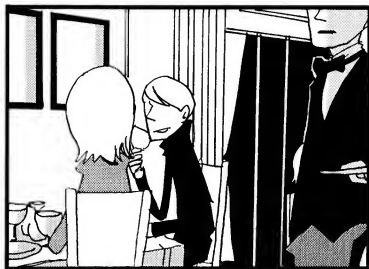


IT'S
ALWAYS
BEEN
LIKE
THAT.

DAD'S
NOT
HOME
MUCH,
BUT...

NO.





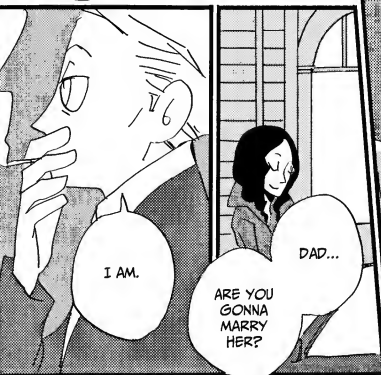
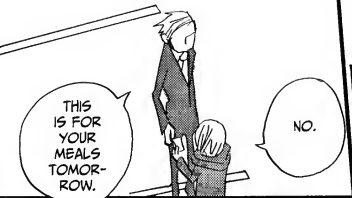
YOU TWO
LOOK SO
ALIKE.



NOW I
FINALLY
GET TO
MEET
YOU.

HE'S
BEEN
PUTTING
THIS OFF,
BUT...







IS
IAN NOT
COMING
WITH US?

HE
WANTS
TO RUN
HOME.

HE LIKES
RUNNING.



MOM
DOESN'T
LIKE IT
EITHER.



DAD
DIDN'T
SEEM
HAPPY
WHEN SHE
SAID WE
LOOKED
ALIKE.





I MISS
KYLIE.

I WANNA
SEE HER
AND TALK
TO HER.



SEE
YOU.

YEAH,
BYE.



IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE
NOW.

KYLIE.

WHEN'RE
YOU TWO
GONNA
SEE EACH
OTHER?

WE CAN'T...
NOT UNTIL
HE REACHES
HIS GOAL.

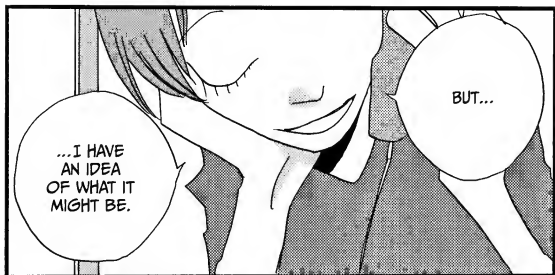
SO
WHAT IS
HIS GOAL,
KYLIE?

I DON'T
KNOW.

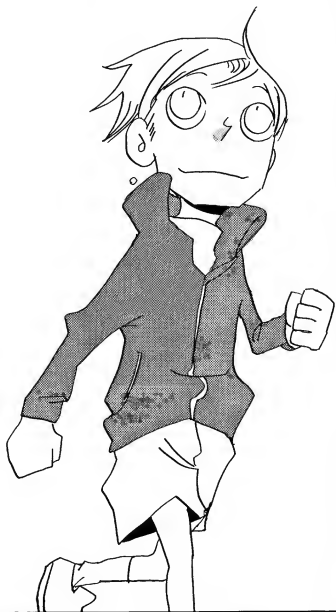
I'M
PRETTY
SETTLED
IN.

BUT HE'S
TRYING TO
KEEP HIS
PROMISE.

HASN'T
IT BEEN
LONG
ENOUGH?



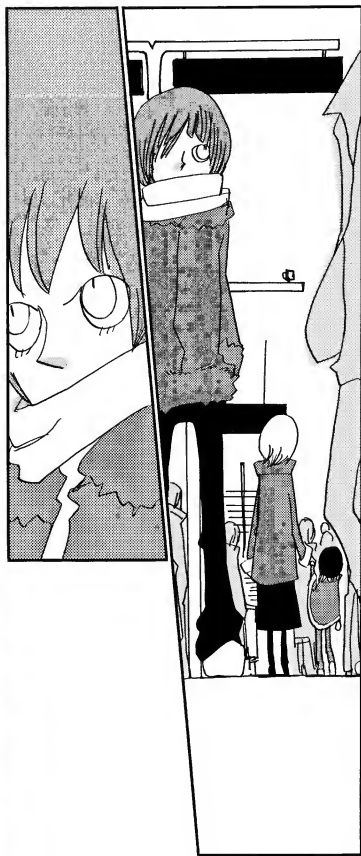
I'LL
WAIT
FOR
HIM.



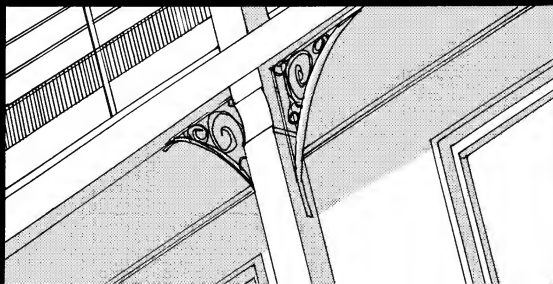


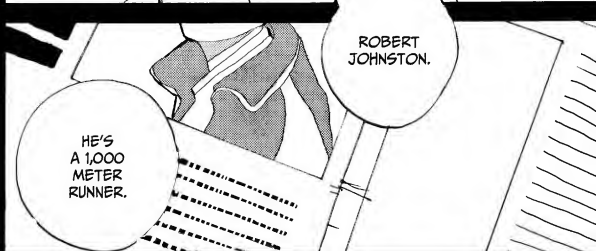
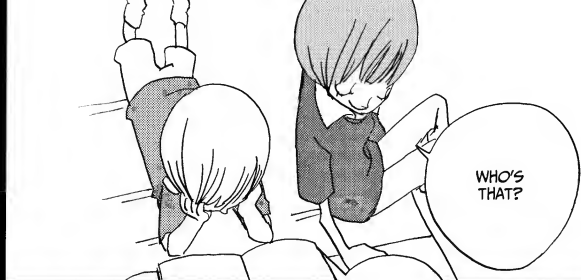
#05 not simple

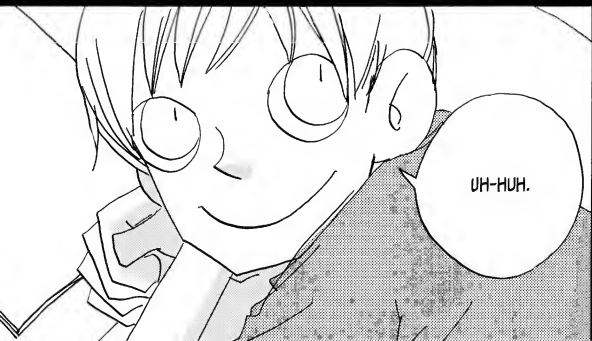
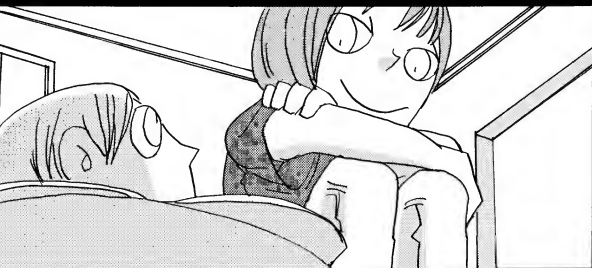


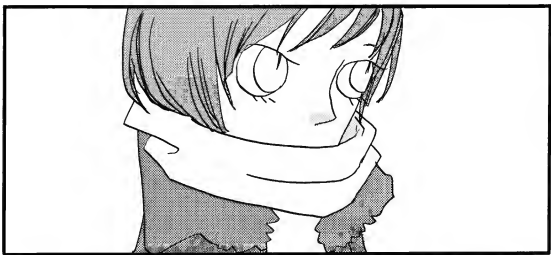
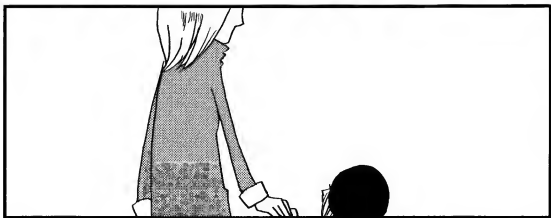


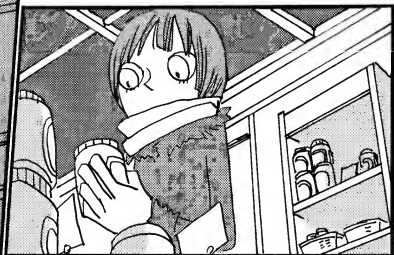








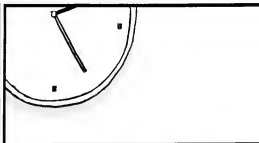
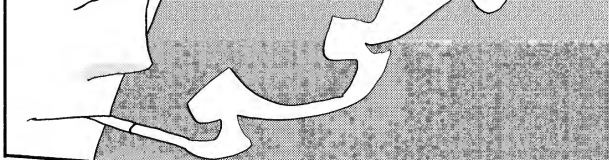


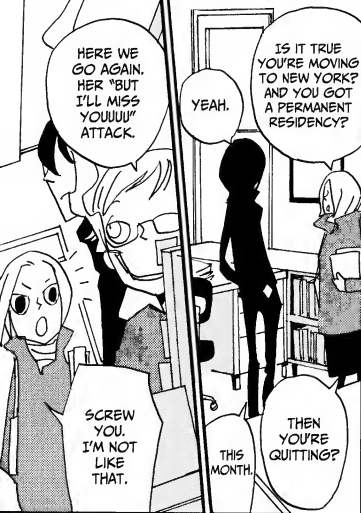


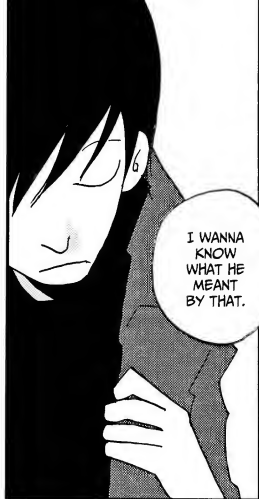


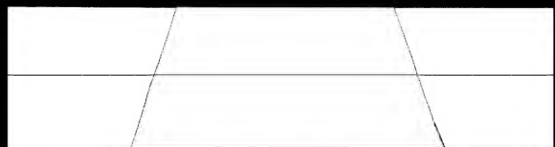
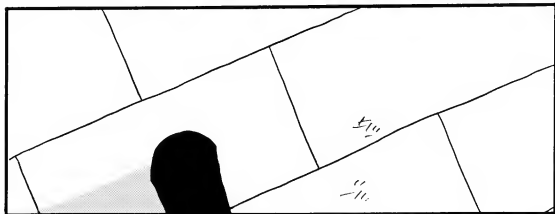


#06 not simple











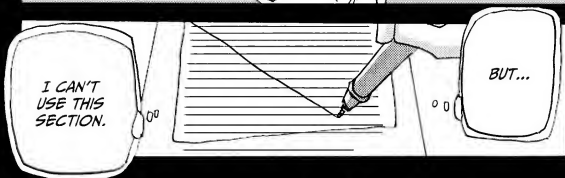






YEAH.

YOU
FINISH THE
INTERVIEW?



I CAN'T
USE THIS
SECTION.

BUT...

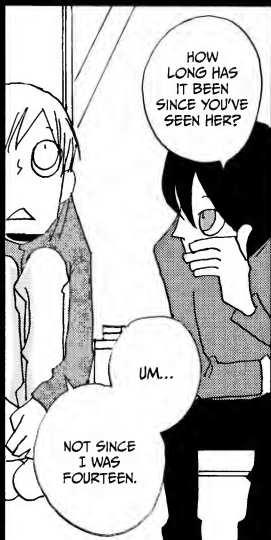


YOU THINK
YOUR DREAM
WILL COME
TRUE?

PROBABLY.

THIS
GOAL OF
YOURS, YOU'RE
ALMOST THERE,
AREN'T YOU?

BREAKING
JOHNSTON'S
RECORD.



HOW
LONG HAS
IT BEEN
SINCE YOU'VE
SEEN HER?

UM...

NOT SINCE
I WAS
FOURTEEN.



AFTER
I DO IT,
I GET TO
GO SEE
MY SISTER.

HUH?



MY SISTER'S
IN LONDON.
WE PROMISED
TO MEET
AGAIN WHEN
MY DREAM...

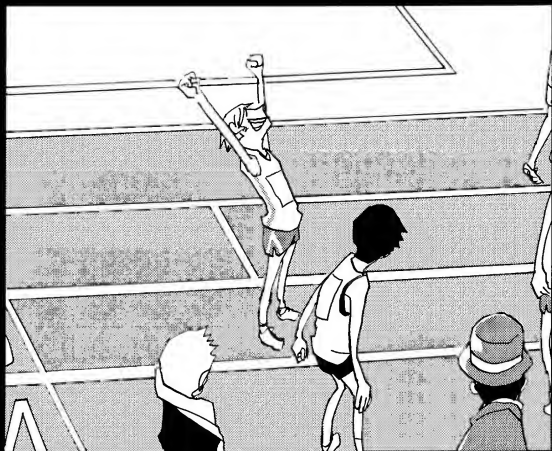
COMES
TRUE.

REALLY...



FOR SOME
REASON, I
SOMETIMES
THINK...



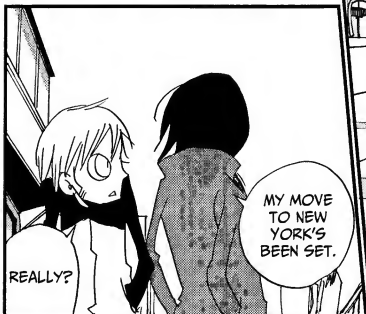


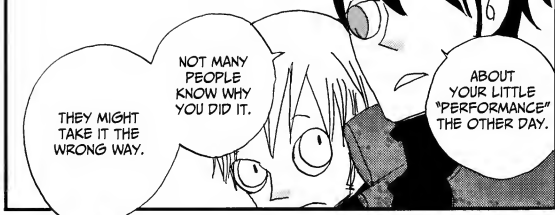


HE ONLY
FINISHED
FOURTH, BUT
THE WAY HE
CELEBRATED...



A
"DREAM,"
HUH?





THEY MIGHT
TAKE IT THE
WRONG WAY.

NOT MANY
PEOPLE
KNOW WHY
YOU DID IT.

ABOUT
YOUR LITTLE
"PERFORMANCE"
THE OTHER DAY.

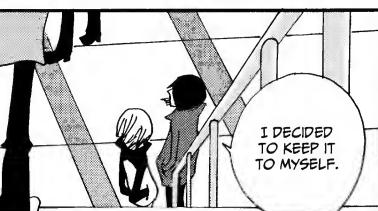


...DIDN'T
YOU
USE OUR
INTERVIEW
IN THE
ARTICLE?

BY
THE WAY,
WHY...



YEAH.



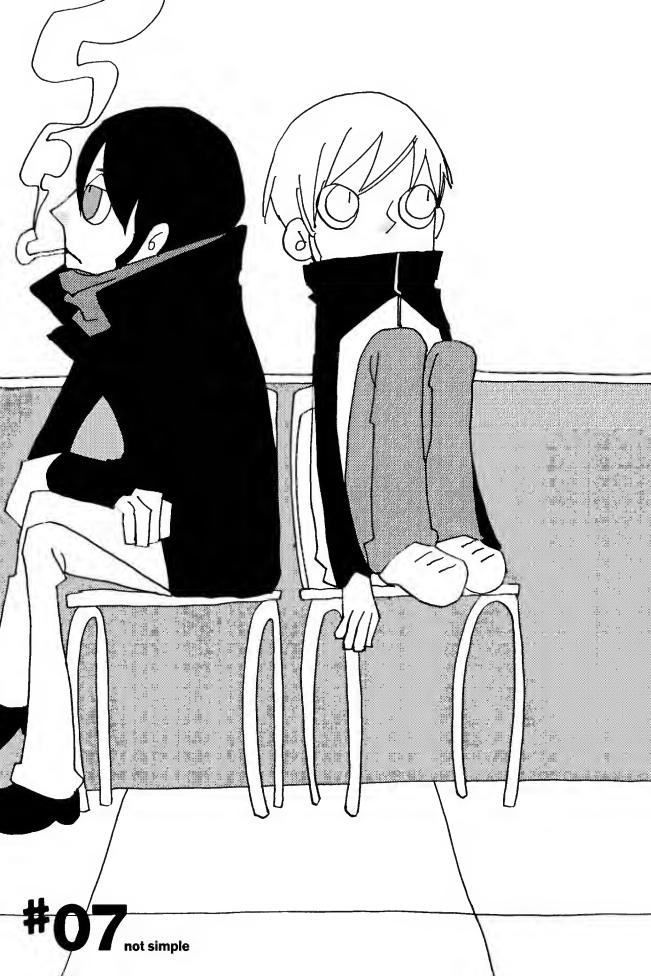
I DECIDED
TO KEEP IT
TO MYSELF.

I'VE
BEEN
TOLD.
BUT
IT'S
OKAY.

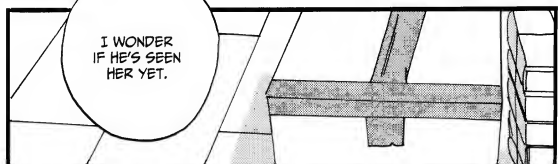
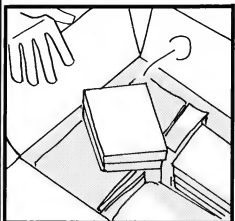


FOR MY
NOVEL.

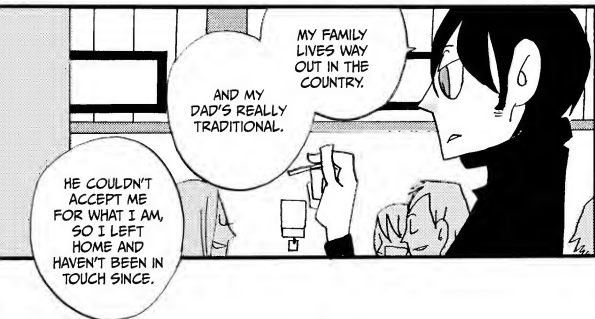


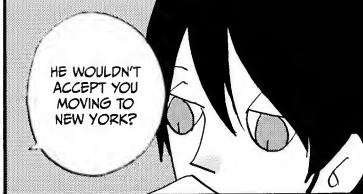


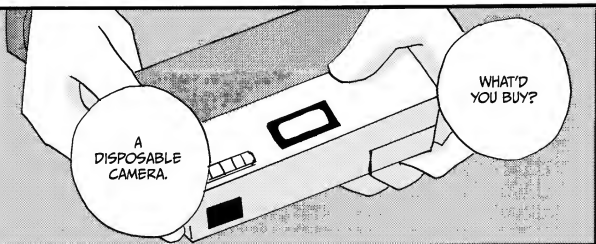








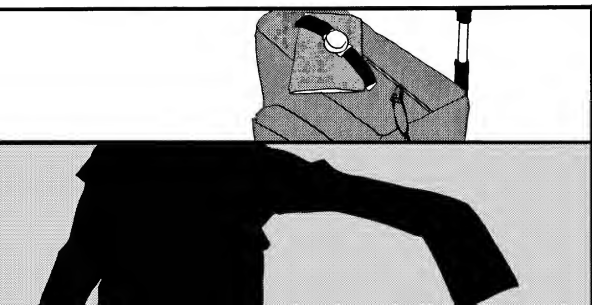


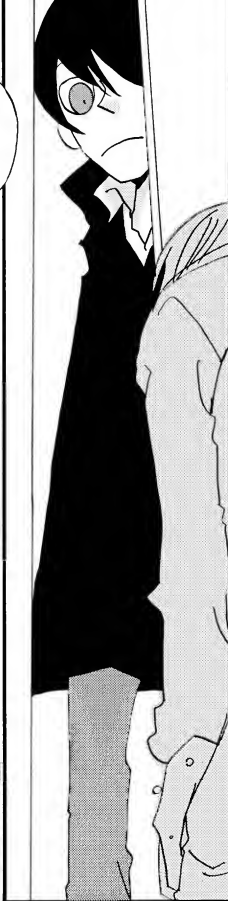
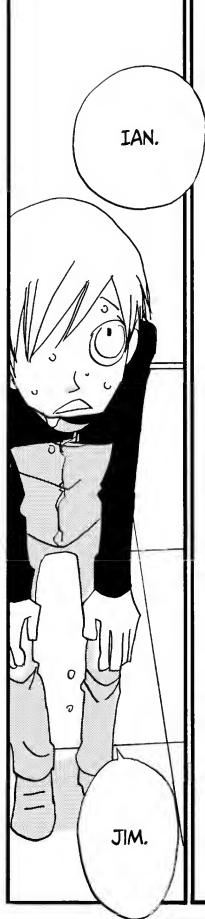


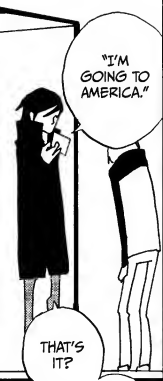




SEE?
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME
LAUGH.







"I'M
GOING TO
AMERICA."

THAT'S
IT?



IT'S A
LETTER
FROM MY
SISTER...



WHAT IS
THIS?

I DON'T
KNOW.



I HAD
HER
FRIEND
LOOK
INTO IT.

BUT SHE
CAN'T GET IN
TOUCH WITH
HER AT THE
OLD NUMBER.

AND THIS
IS ALL
SHE LEFT
YOU?



THIS...

BUT HE
HADN'T
HEARD
A THING.

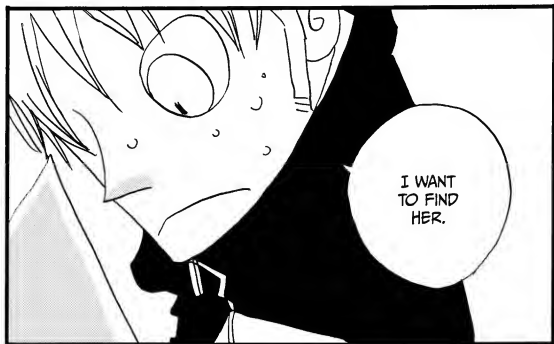
I CALLED
AN ACQUAIN-
TANCE OF
HERS IN THE
STATES,
THINKING SHE
MIGHT HAVE
CALLED HIM.

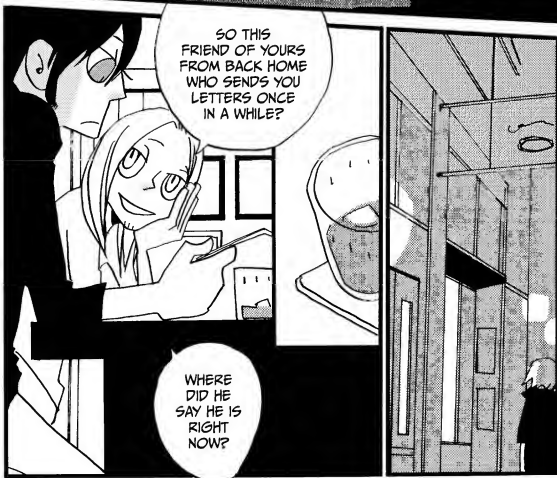
WANNA
COME
TO NEW
YORK?

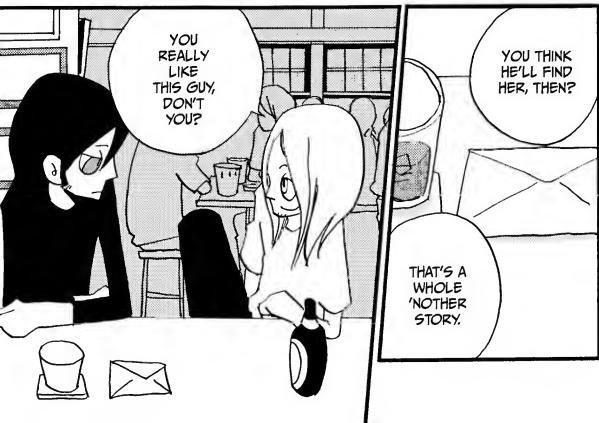
I...

DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO.

WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?









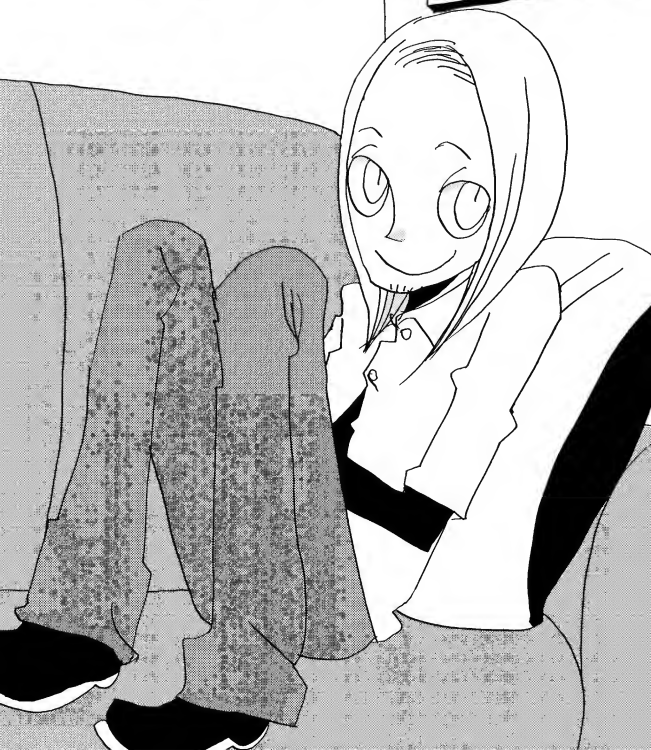
IT'S SO
OBVIOUS.

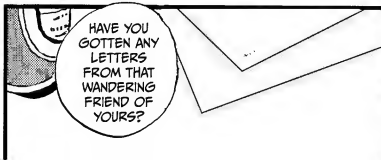
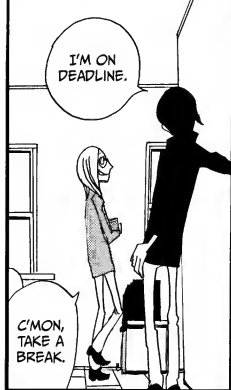


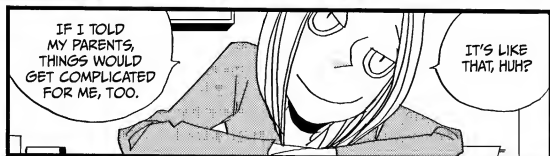
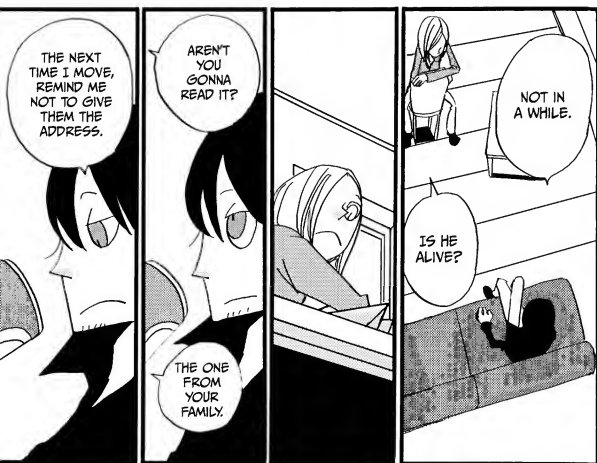
I'M JUST
CURIOUS.
THAT'S ALL.

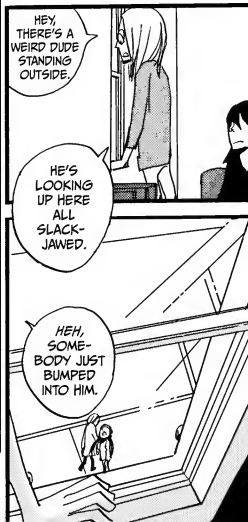
#08 not simple

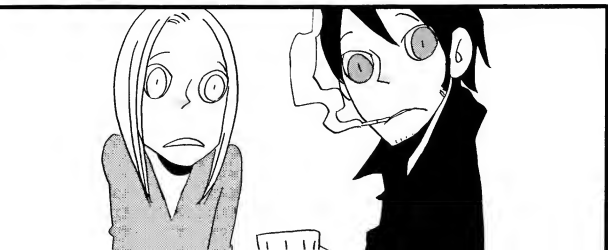
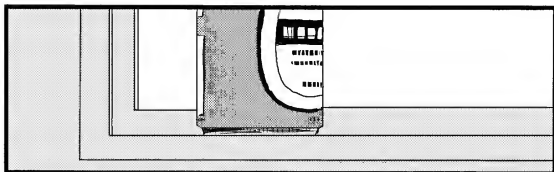
8















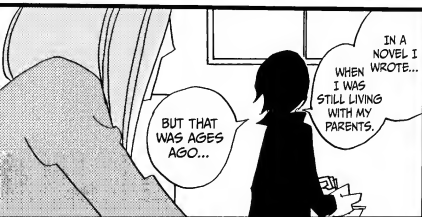
HE'S
EXACTLY
LIKE A
CHARACTER
I CREATED.



HE'S
FASCI-
NATING.



MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
MAKE HIM A
CHARACTER
IN YOUR
NOVEL?



BUT THAT
WAS AGES
AGO...

IN A
NOVEL I
WROTE...
WHEN
I WAS
STILL LIVING
WITH MY
PARENTS.

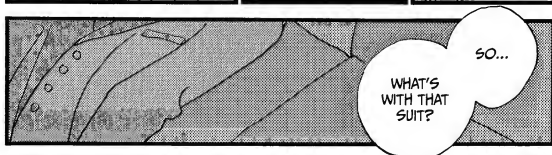


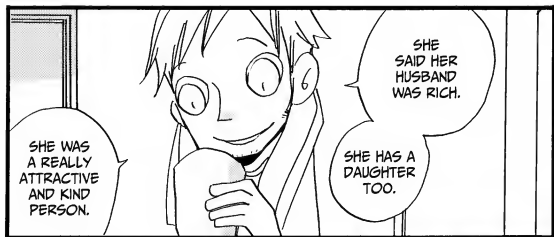
SOME-
ONE WHO
WAS SIMPLY
HIMSELF AND
NOTHING
MORE.

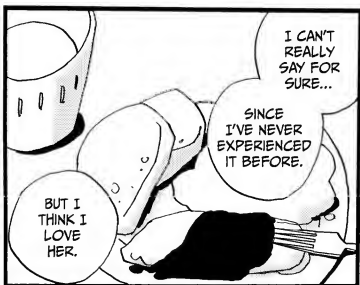
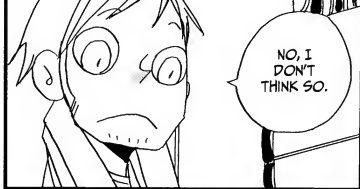
A PERSON
UNCLOUDED
BY TOO
MUCH
THOUGHT.



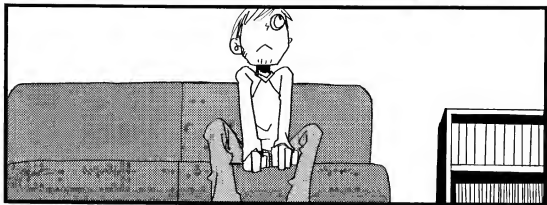
BACK
THEN THAT'S
WHAT I
WANTED
TO BE.

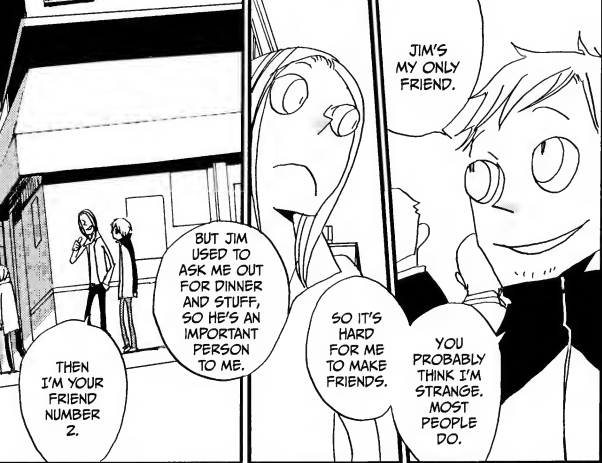














WHEN I
BEHAVED.

I USED
TO GET
CHOCOLATE...



I HAVEN'T
EARNED
IT YET.



YOU
DON'T
LIKE
GUM?

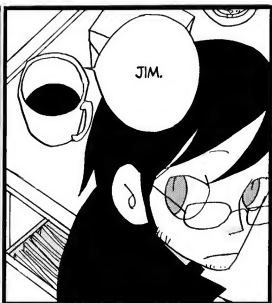


I ALWAYS
THOUGHT
GUM WAS
JUST A
REWARD.

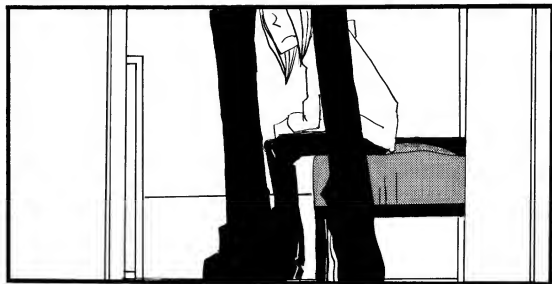
SURE,
WHEN
YOU'RE
A KID.

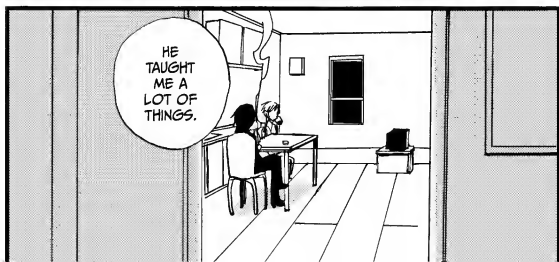
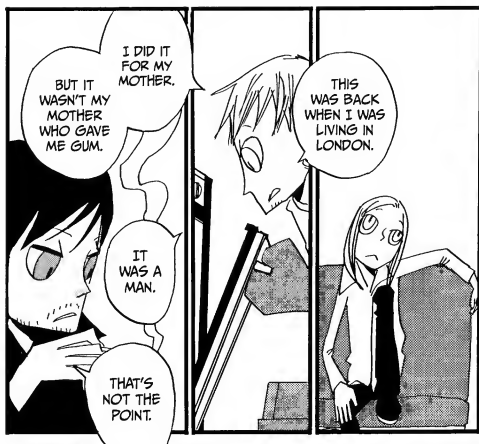


THAT KID IS
DEFINITELY
WEIRD.

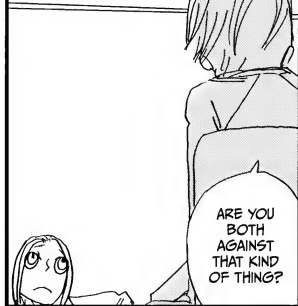


JIM.









ARE YOU
BOTH
AGAINST
THAT KIND
OF THING?



BECAUSE
IT'S WEIRD?

DO YOU
REALLY NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING?



PROSTITU-
TION
IS NOT
COOL.

I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
THE GAY
PART.



AND
JIM...

I MEAN,
I AM GAY,
SO...



YOU
KNOW HE'S
GOT NO
HANG-UPS.





IT
LOOKS
GOOD.



I
LOVE
IT.

MY SISTER
USED TO
MAKE THIS
FOR ME ALL
THE TIME.



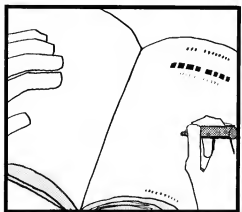
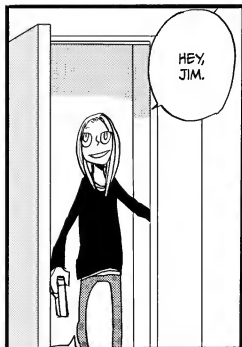
I CAN'T
COOK
AT ALL.

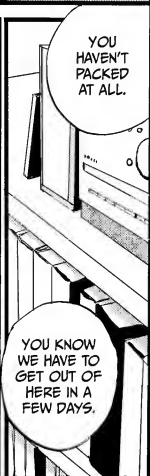


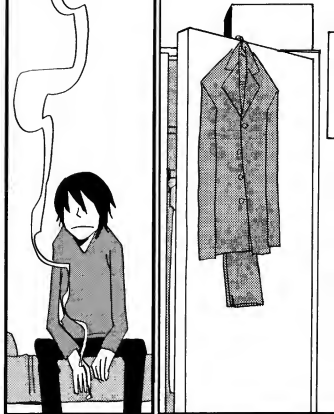
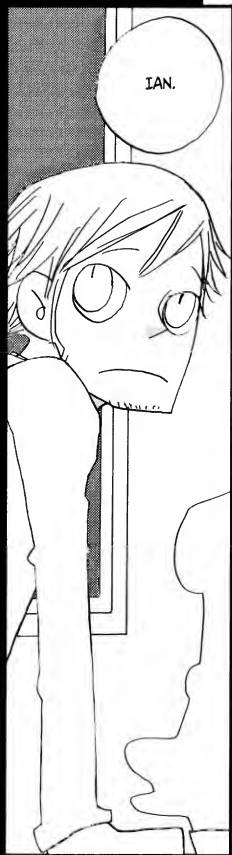
I'VE BEEN
COOKING
SINCE I
WAS A KID.

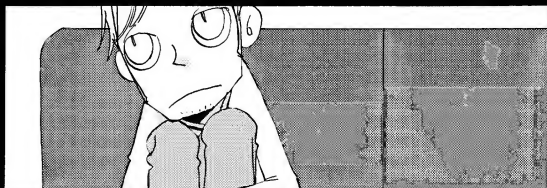


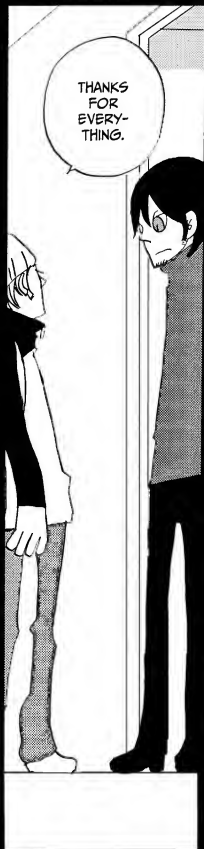














THANKS.



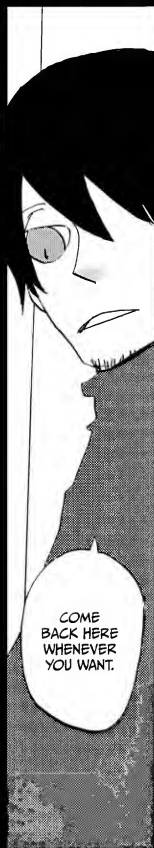
I HOPE
YOU GET
TO SEE
HER.



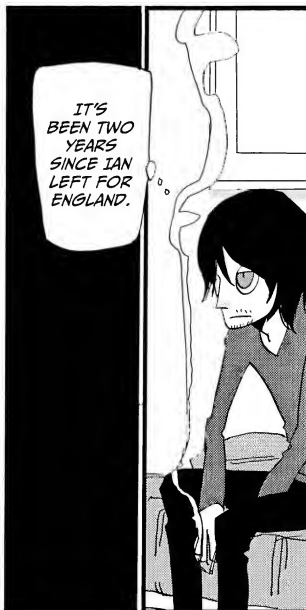
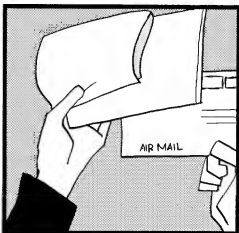
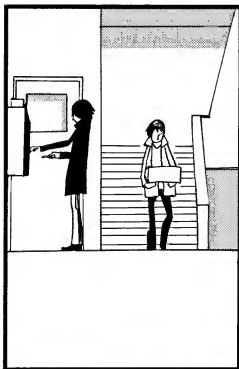
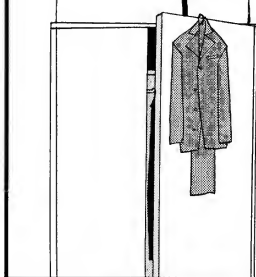
YEAH, I'LL
COME TELL
YOU ALL
ABOUT IT.

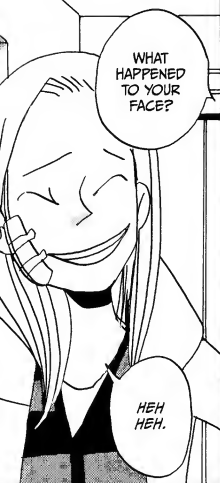


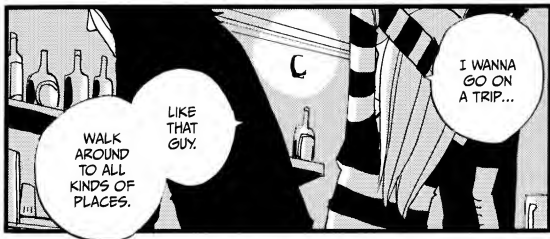
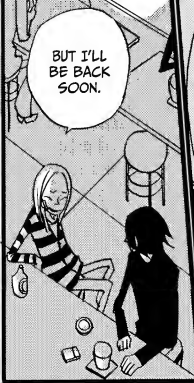
PLUS
YOUR
SUIT'S
STILL
HERE.

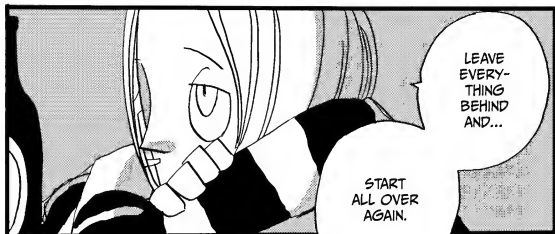


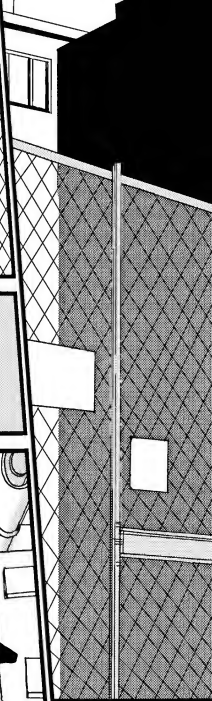
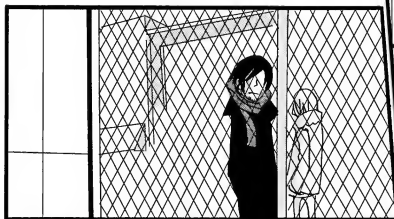
COME
BACK HERE
WHENEVER
YOU WANT.



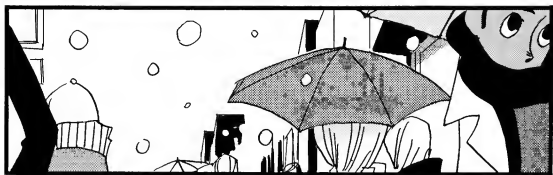
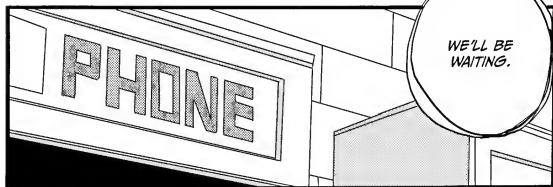


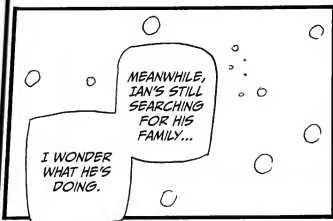


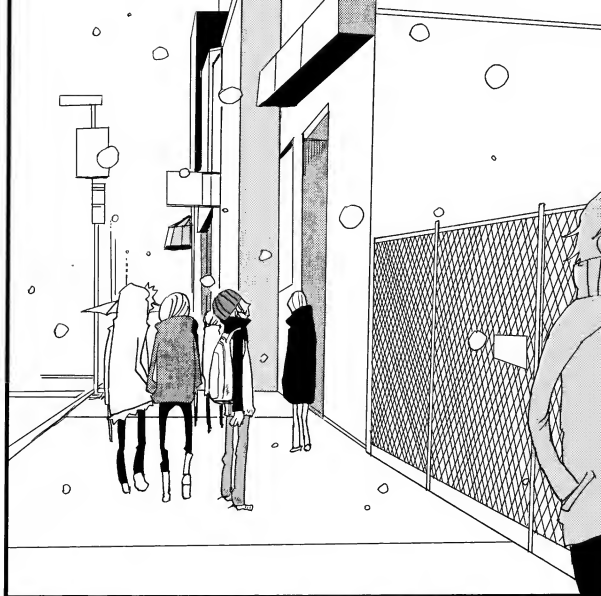


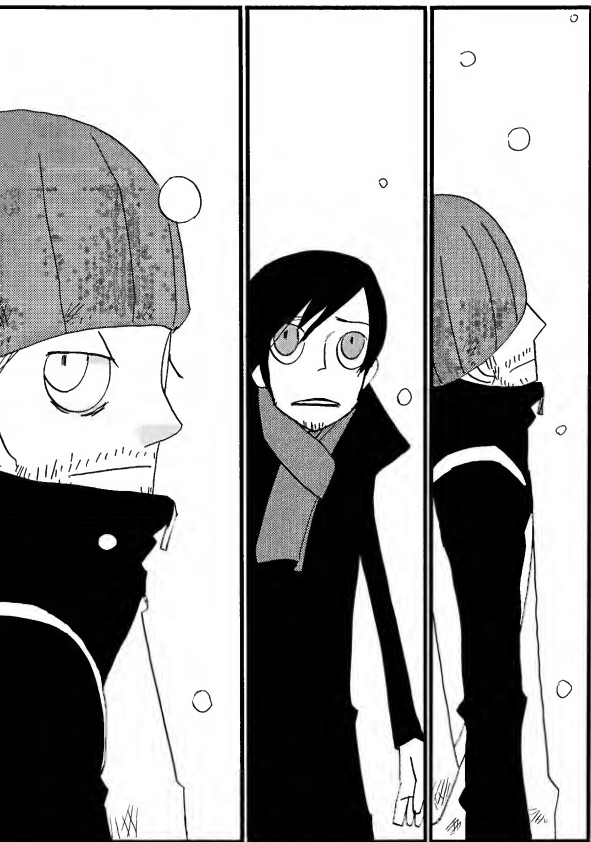


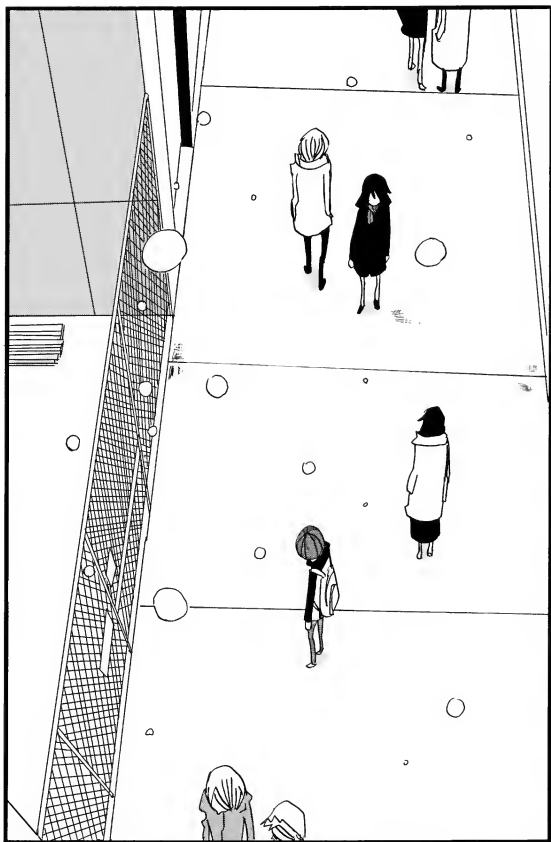














#10 not simple



GO
TAKE A
SHOWER.



THE
BATH-
ROOM'S
DOWN
THERE.

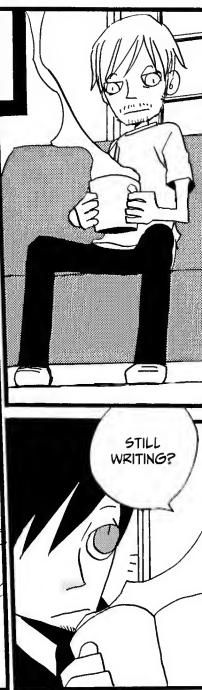


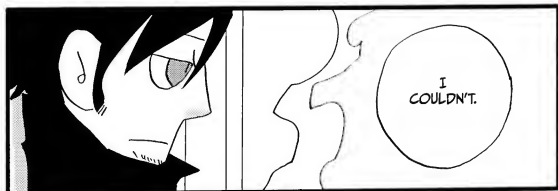
OKAY.



OKAY.



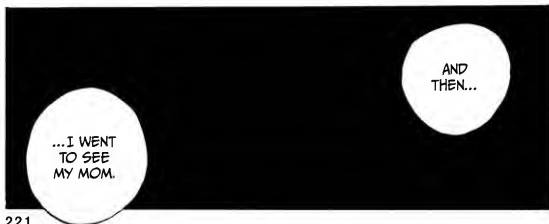


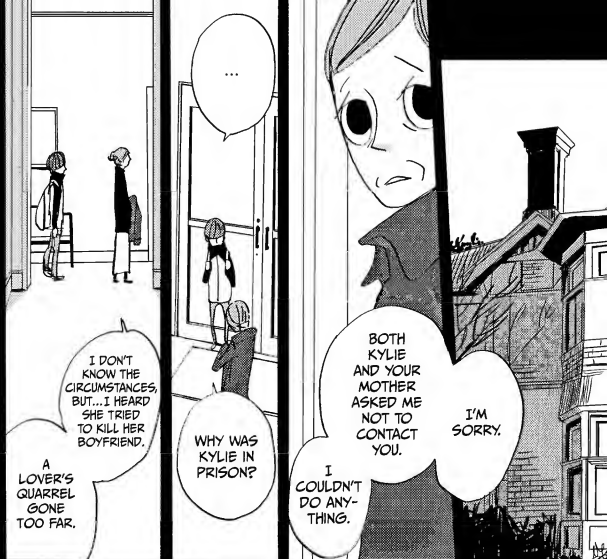












SHE WAS
IN A
FACILITY.

TO
TREAT HER
ALCOHOL-
ISM.

BUT I
NEED
TO TALK
TO MY
MOTHER
...

I
SEE.

YOU
MUST BE
SHAKEN
UP ABOUT
KYLIE.



SHE'S
RESTING
AT MY
PLACE
NOW.

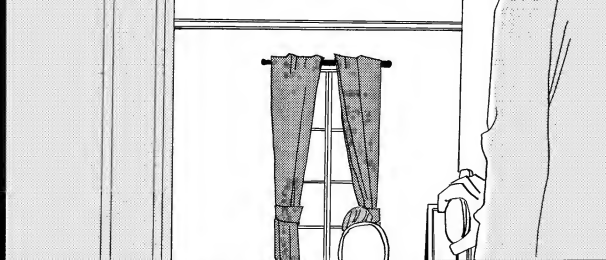
SHE
BECAME
UNCONTROL-
LABLE
AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED
TO KYLIE.

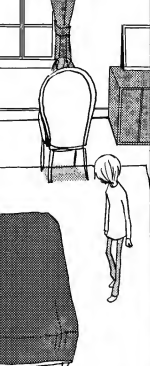
I'LL GO
MAKE
SOME
TEA.

SHE'S
IN HERE.

...I'M
COMING
IN.

MOM...







YOU'RE
NOT MY
MOTHER?

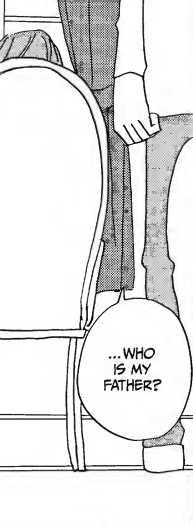
YOU'RE...



...I'M
NOT.



IS
KYLIE MY
MOTHER?



...WHO
IS MY
FATHER?

WHEREAS
ALL HER
FATHER
HAD WAS
TACT.



I WONDER
WHO YOU
REALLY
TOOK
AFTER.



YOU'RE
NOT
EXACTLY
LIKE YOUR
MOTHER.

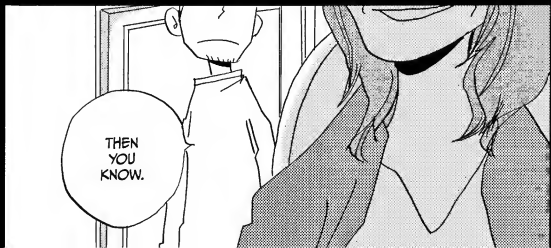


ALTHOUGH
SHE WAS
TACTLESS
TOO.



...DAD.

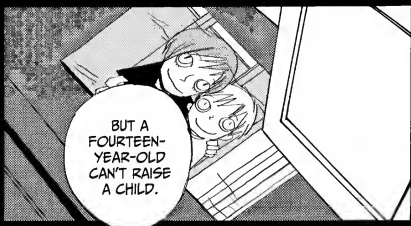
WHO DO
YOU THINK
IS YOUR
FATHER?



THEN
YOU
KNOW.



YOU'RE KYLIE AND THAT MAN'S CHILD.





HOWEVER...

...YOU
GREW TO
BE MORE
AND MORE
LIKE HIM.



I WAS IN
DENIAL.



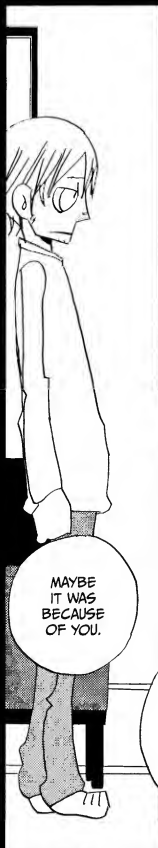
SO I...

...BECAME
YOUR
MOTHER.



I DIDN'T
ASK
WHO THE
FATHER
WAS.

BUT I
KNEW.



MAYBE
IT WAS
BECAUSE
OF YOU.



BUT BECAUSE
SHE STAYED
HERE WITH ME,
WE WERE
ABLE TO MAKE
AMENDS.

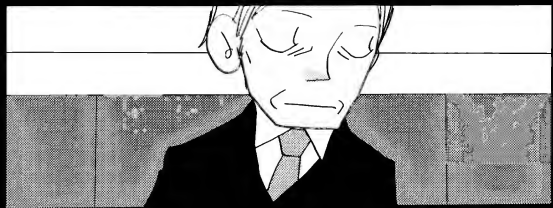
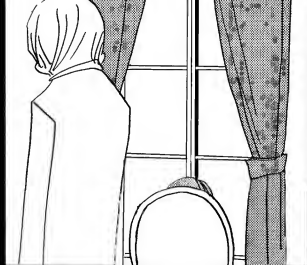


I WASN'T
A GOOD
MOTHER
TO HER.

SHE
WASN'T
A GOOD
DAUGHTER
EITHER.









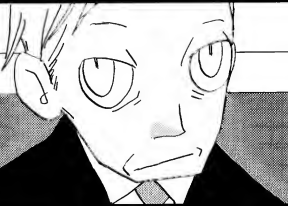
I
HEARD
SHE
DIED.



I'M
HAPPY
WITH MY
CURRENT
FAMILY.

BUT...

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.



YOU
UNDER-
STAND,
RIGHT?

DON'T
COME
HERE
AGAIN.

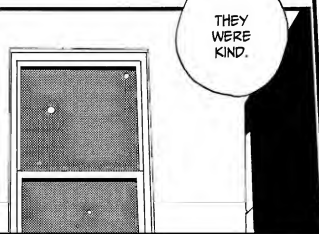
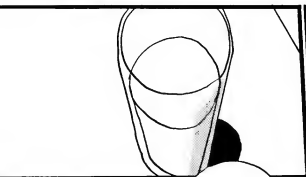
AFTER
THAT...

I DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO.

I
WALKED.

AND
WALKED.

SO I
WALKED.



THEY
WERE
KIND.



BUT...

YOU
MEET
A LOT
OF NICE
PEOPLE.



I'M STILL
HERE NOW
THANKS
TO THEM.



WHEN YOU
WALK...

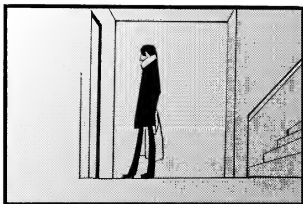


T MARKET

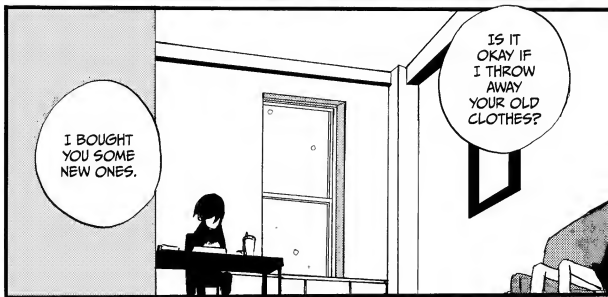
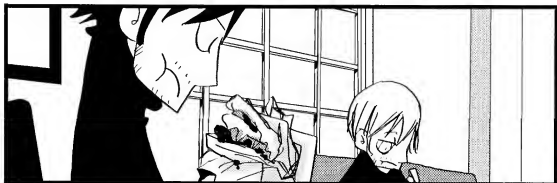


#11

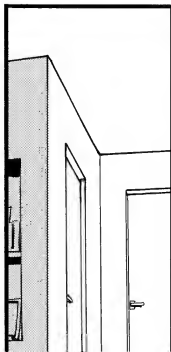
not simple

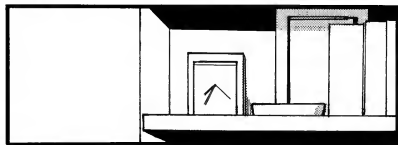
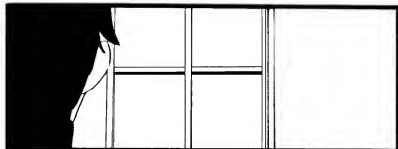


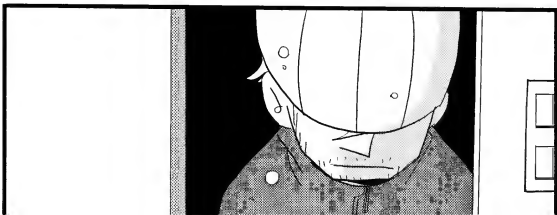
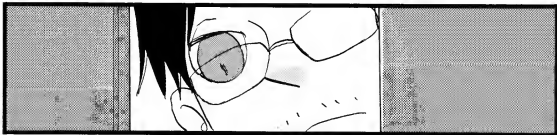
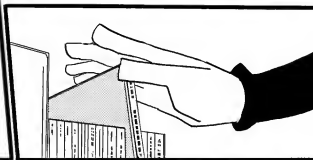
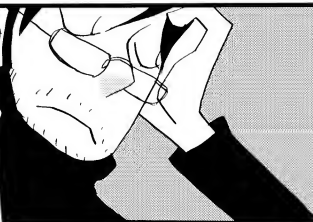


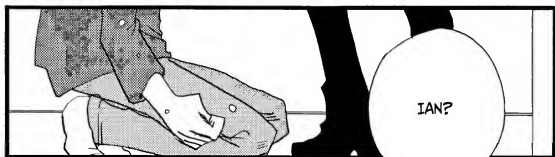


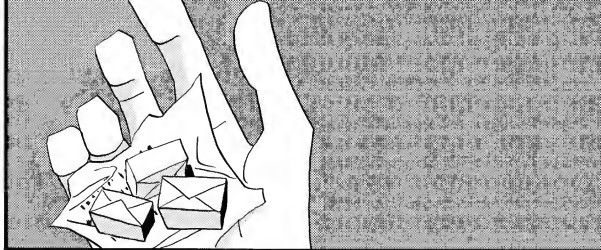


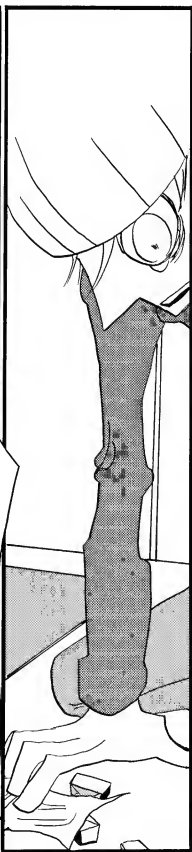


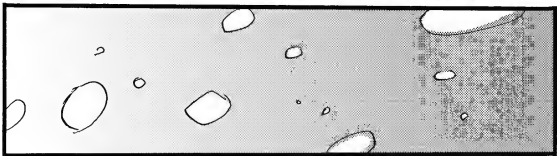
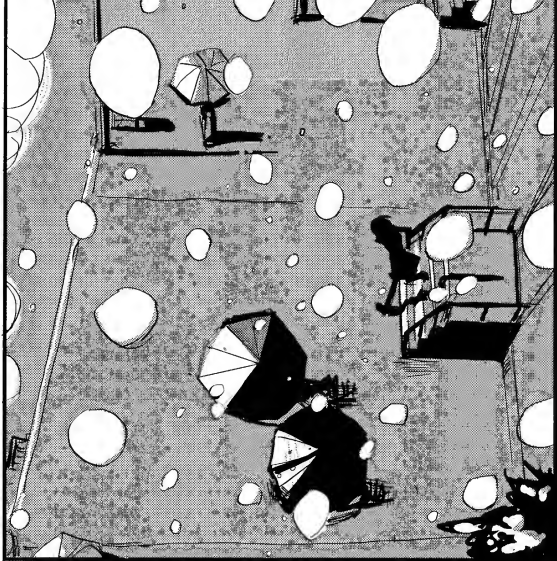


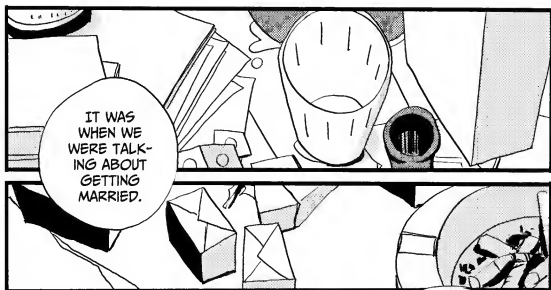


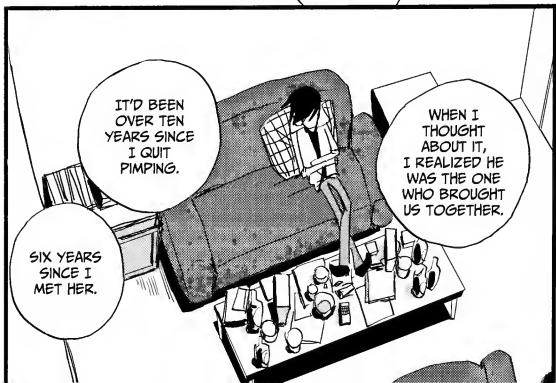
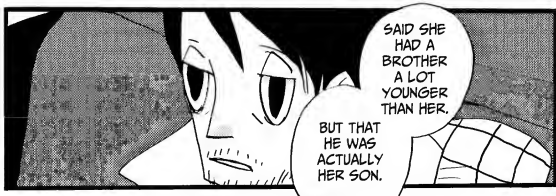


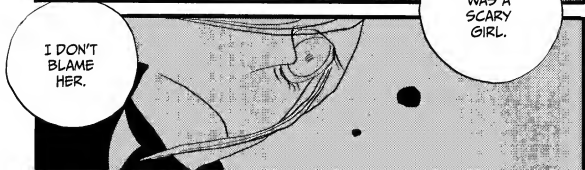
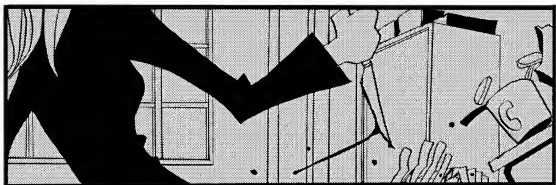
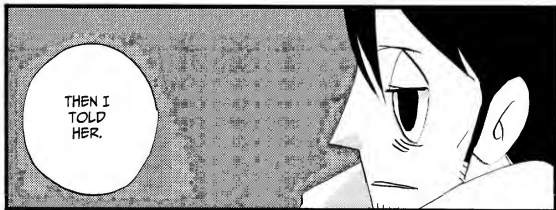


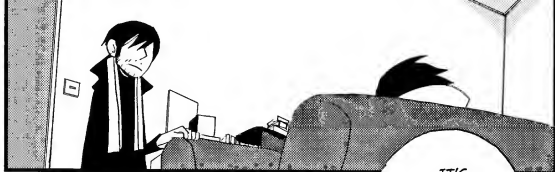












...IT'S
MY
FAULT
SHE'S
DEAD.

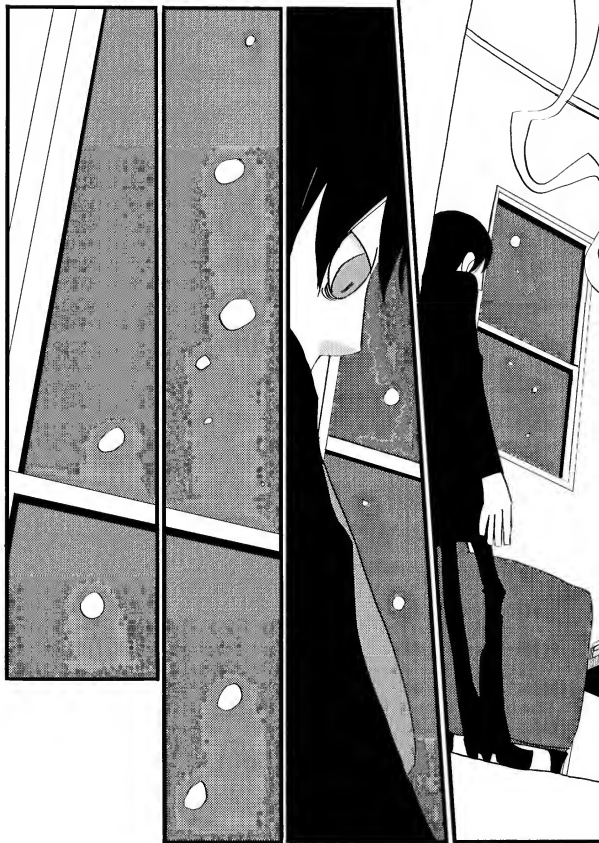


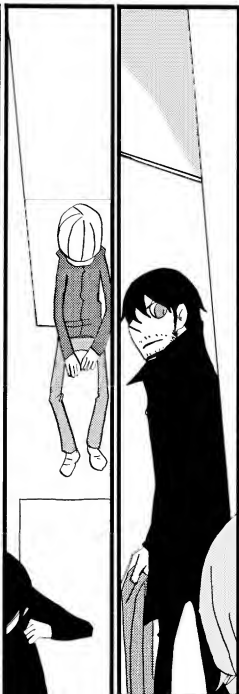
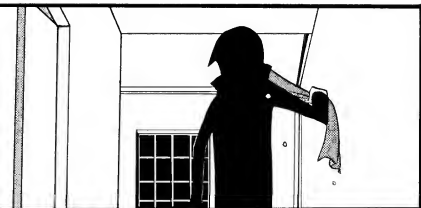
SHE
CONTRACTED
IT FROM ME.

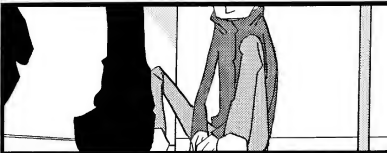


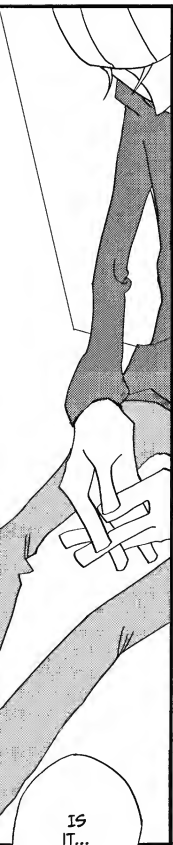
I HOPE HE
HASN'T HAD
SYMPTOMS
YET.







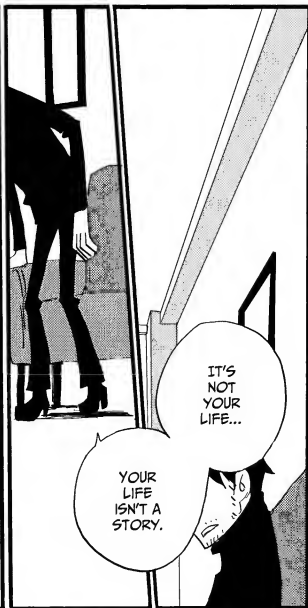


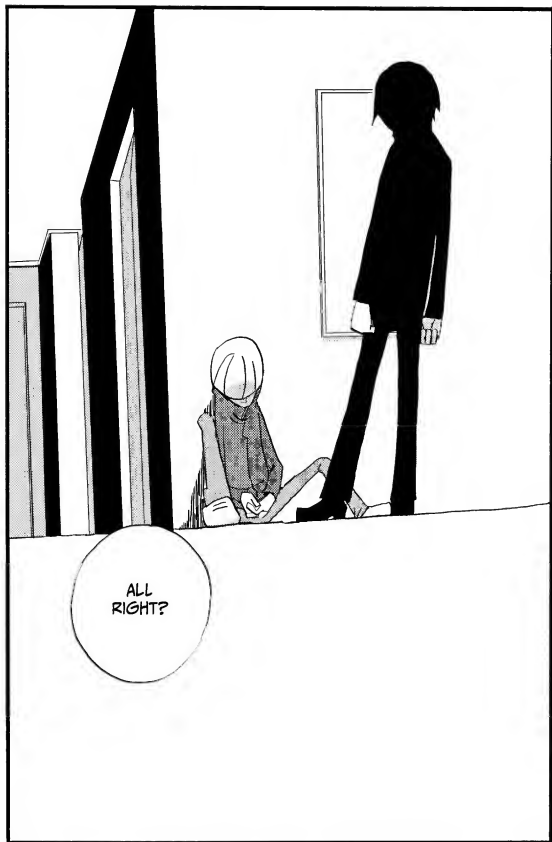


IS
IT...



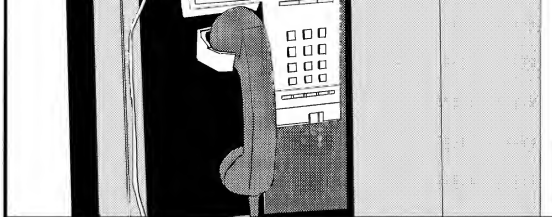
YOUR LIFE IS
UNBELIEVABLE.

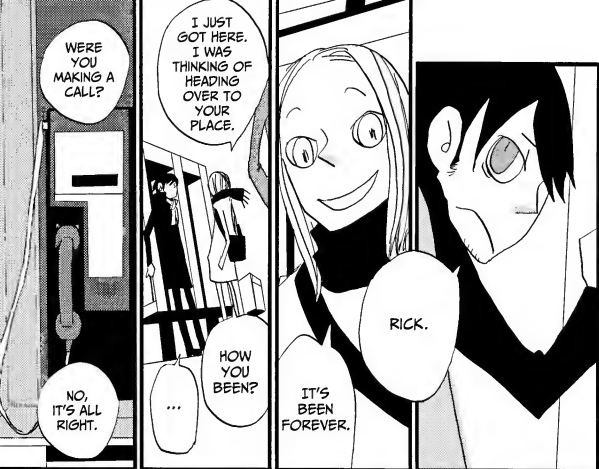


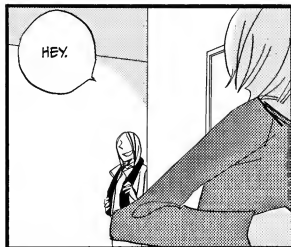




#12 not simple



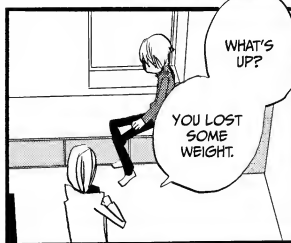




HEY.



THIS IS
A NICE
PLACE.



WHAT'S
UP?

YOU LOST
SOME
WEIGHT.



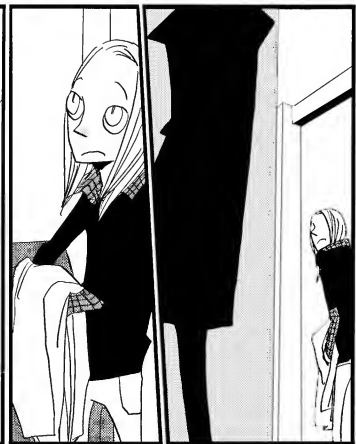
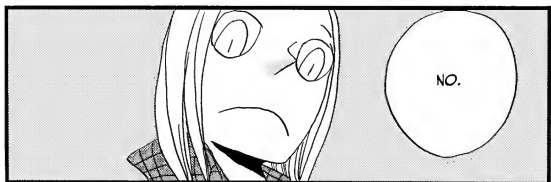
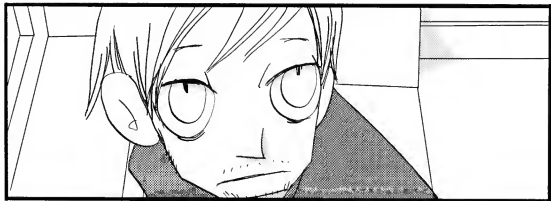
BUT
I CAN'T
STAY TOO
LONG.



I CAME
OUT HERE
FOR A
LITTLE
VISIT.



DID YOU
EVER GET
TO SEE
YOUR
SISTER?





MY
BED.



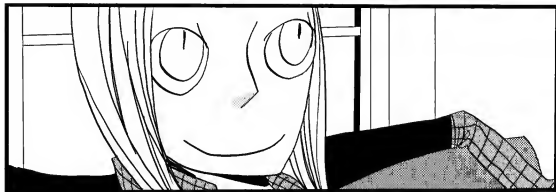
DO
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT.

IS THAT
COOL?

I'LL
CALL AND
TELL MY
FOLKS.



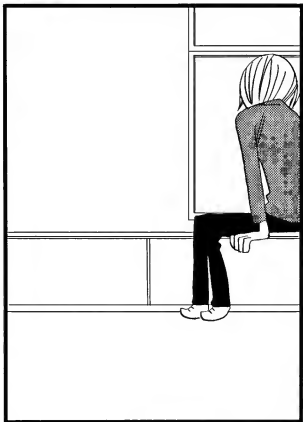
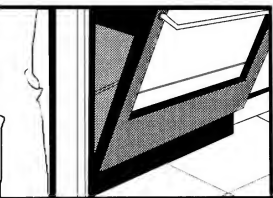
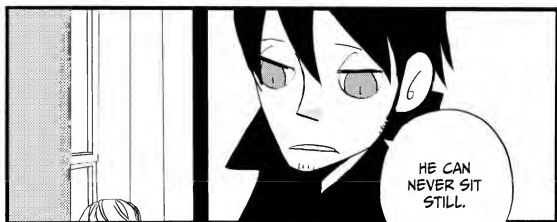
I DID
COME
ALL THE
WAY TO
NEW
YORK.



I'LL
RUN OUT
AND GET
SOME
STUFF.

HOW
ABOUT
I COOK
DINNER?



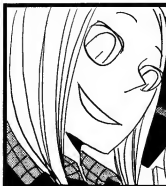
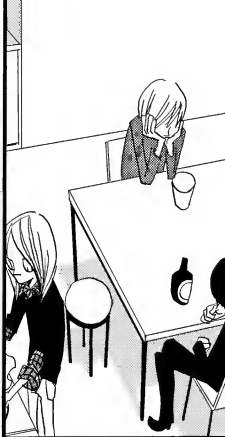




IF EVERY
FAMILY HAS
ITS OWN
WAY OF
MAKING IT...

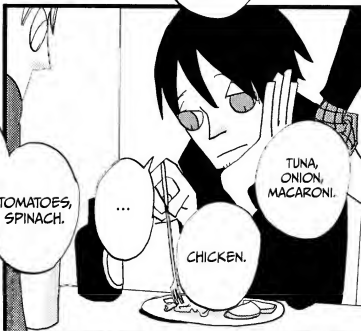
AND
A FEW
OTHER
THINGS.

TOMATOES,
SPINACH.



MY
SPECIAL
TUNA
MORNAY.

THERE'S
A TON OF
STUFF
IN IT.



TUNA,
ONION,
MACARONI.

CHICKEN.

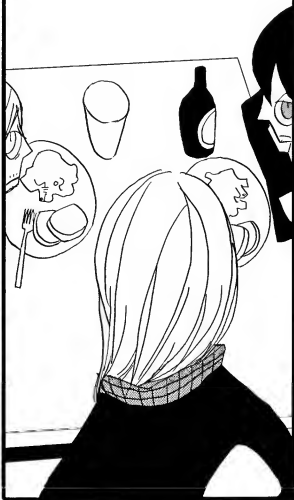
...

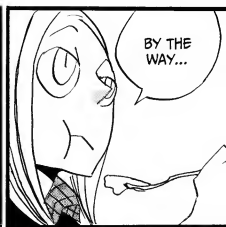


LET'S EAT.

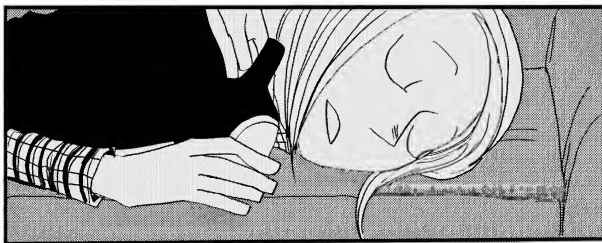
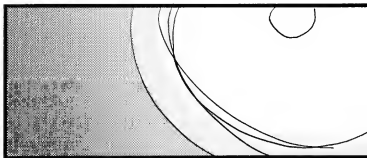
RIGHT?

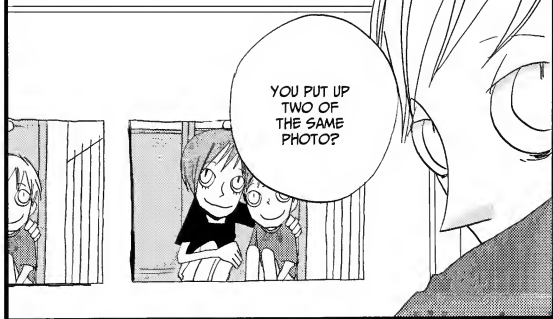
SO IAN,
YOU WERE
TRAVELING
AROUND,
RIGHT?

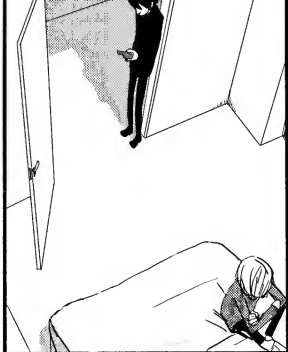












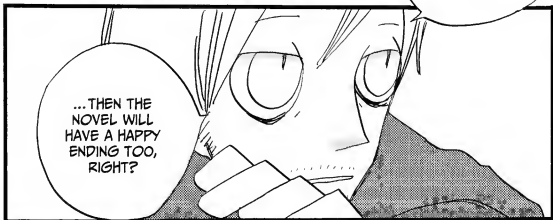
YEAH.



IT GOT
CROWDED
HERE IN A
HURRY.



IF I HAVE
NOTHING
BUT GOOD
EXPERIENCES
FROM
HERE ON...



...THEN THE
NOVEL WILL
HAVE A HAPPY
ENDING TOO,
RIGHT?





I'M GONNA
GO SEE THE
WOMAN I
PROMISED
TO MEET.



RIGHT.



YEAH.



I'D
LIKE
TO SEE
HER.

FOR
YOUR
NOVEL?



CAN
I GO
WITH
YOU?

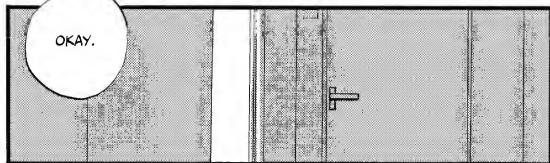


SURE,
BUT
WHY?

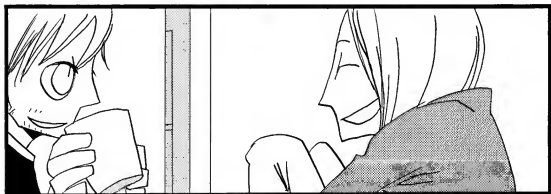


I JUST
WANNA
SEE HER,
NOT TALK
TO HER.

I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU.

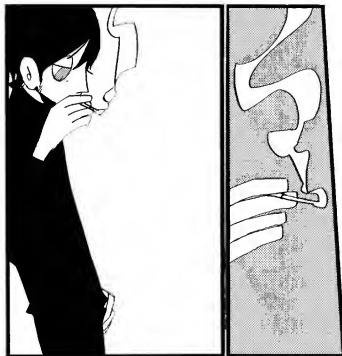


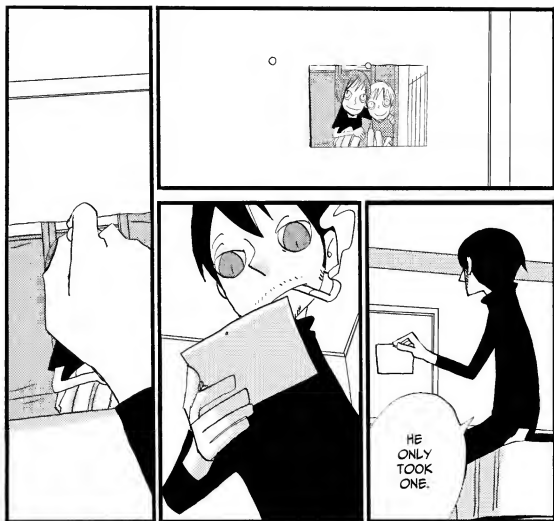
OKAY.

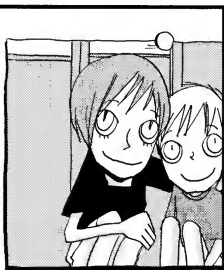
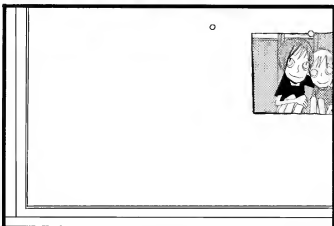
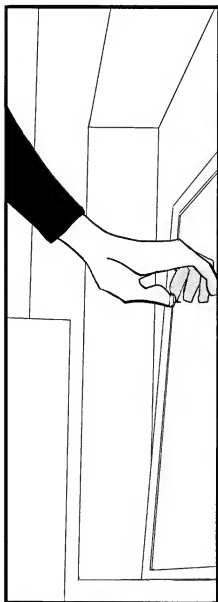








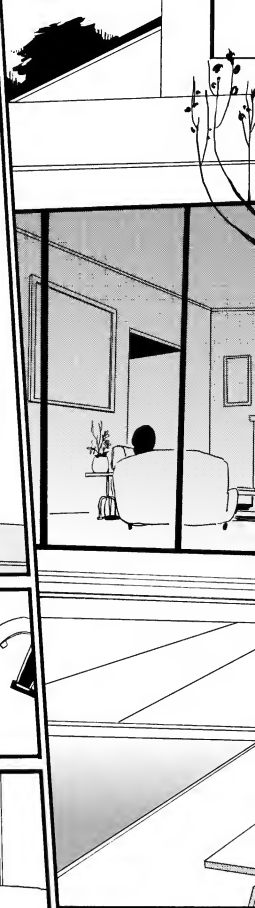
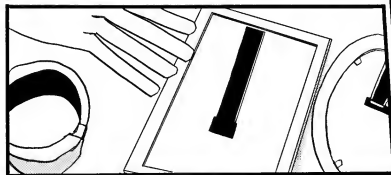


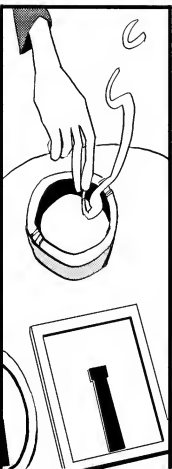
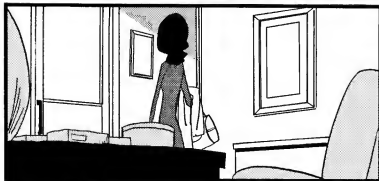
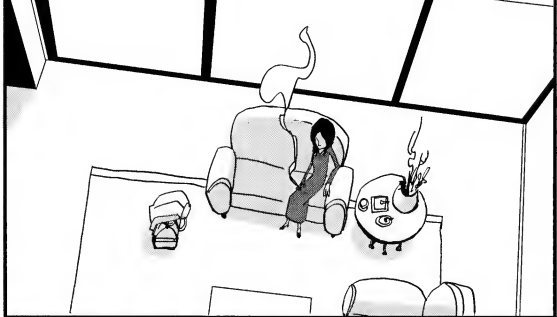


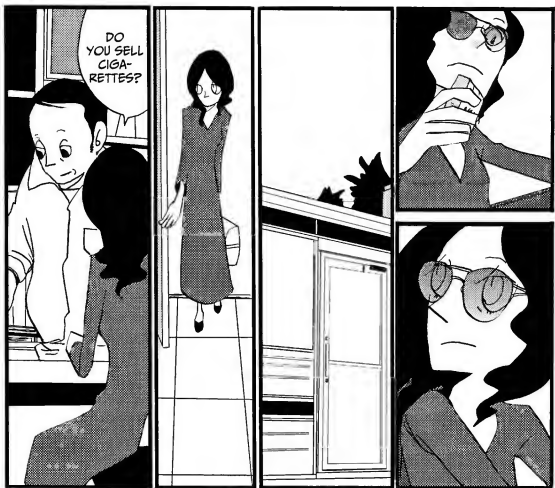




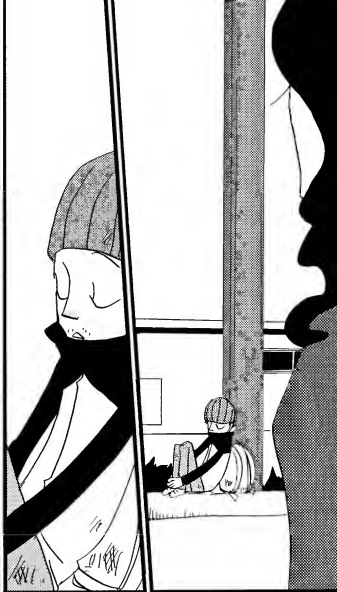
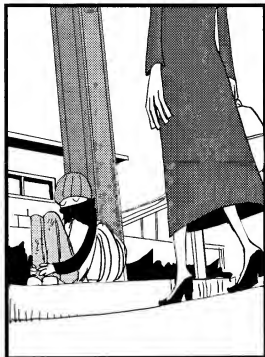
epilogue not simple

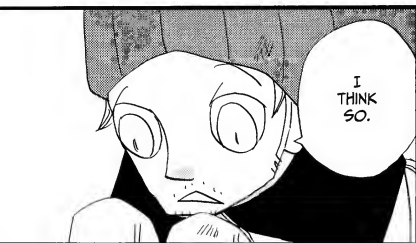
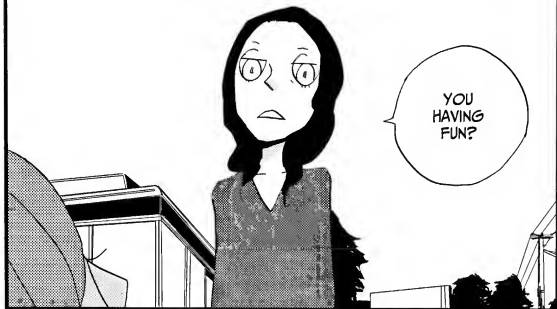


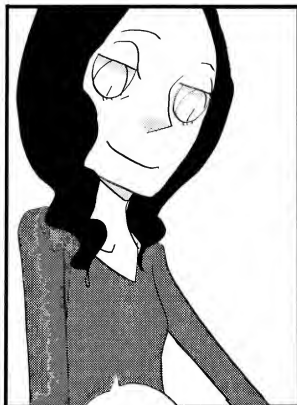




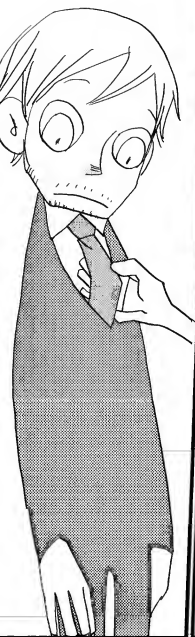






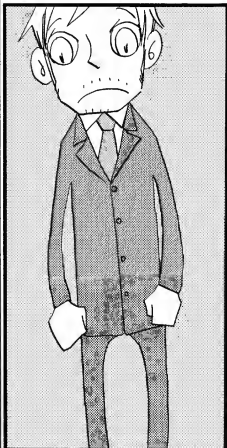


IT
LOOKS
GOOD
ON YOU.



IT'S
ADOR-
ABLE.

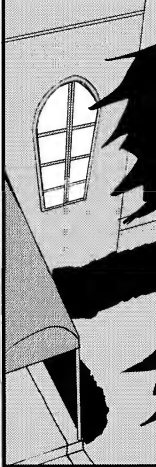
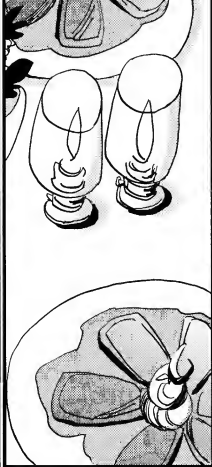
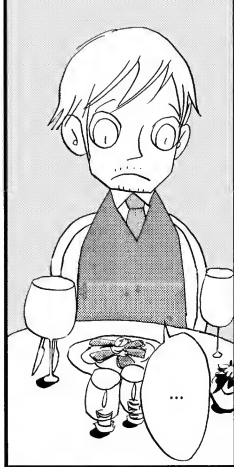
PUT IT
ON MY
CARD.



UM...

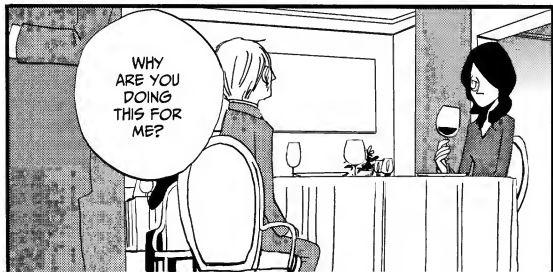
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.



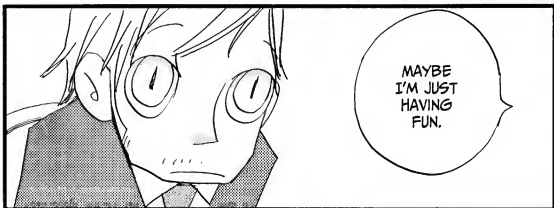


DON'T
BE SHY.

EAT
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.



WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS FOR
ME?

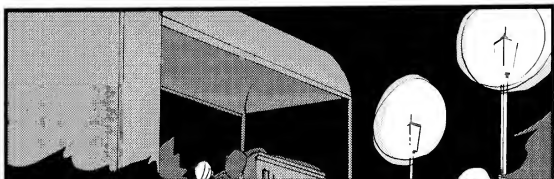
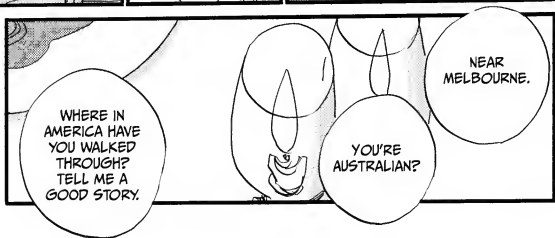


PICKING
UP AND
FEEDING A
HOMELESS
MAN I
JUST MET...



IT'S
INTER-
ESTING.







THANK
YOU FOR
DINNER.

MY
HUSBAND'S
PAYING
FOR IT.

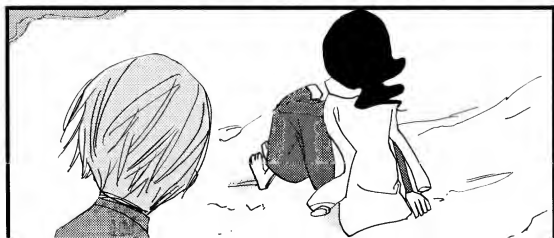


AND
THAT'S THE
END OF
THE EASY
MONEY.

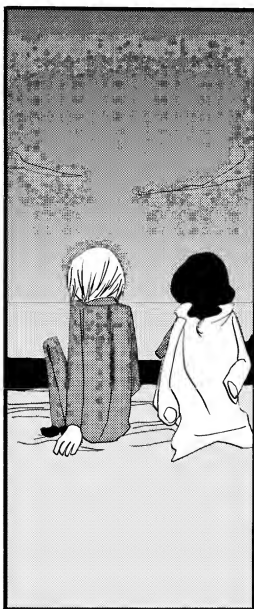
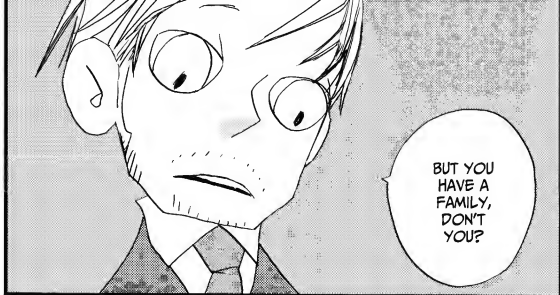


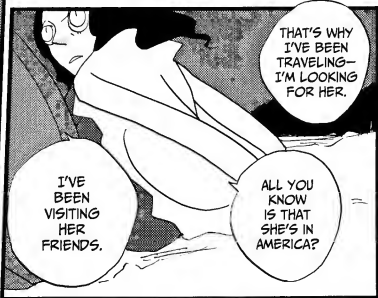
THANK
YOU FOR
BEING THERE
WITH ME.





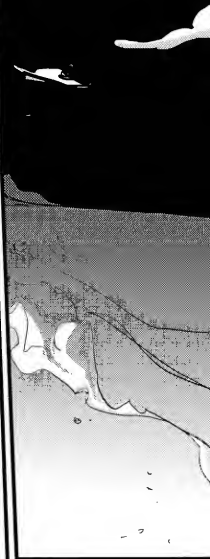




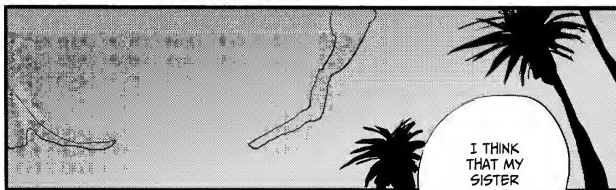




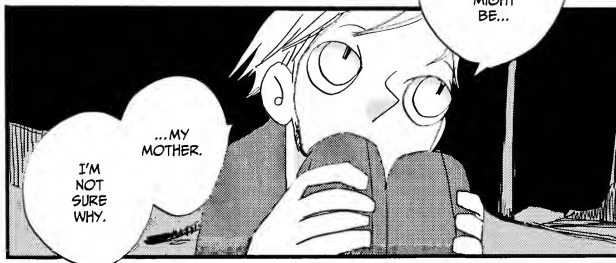
WHERE TO
LOOK FOR
HER NEXT.





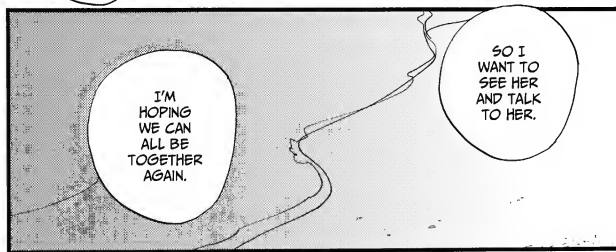


I THINK
THAT MY
SISTER
MIGHT
BE...



I'M
NOT
SURE
WHY.

...MY
MOTHER.



I'M
HOPING
WE CAN
ALL BE
TOGETHER
AGAIN.

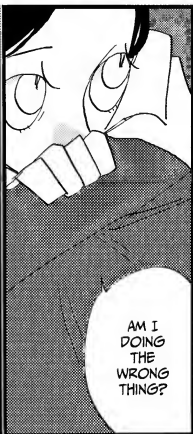
SO I
WANT TO
SEE HER
AND TALK
TO HER.

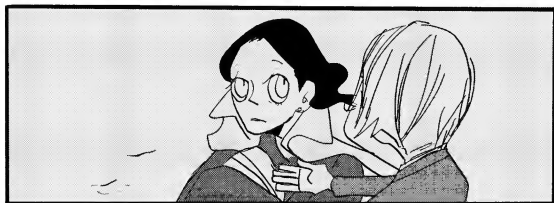


PLEASE.

YOUR
DAUGHTER
MIGHT START
SEARCHING
ALL OVER
THE COUNTRY
LIKE I AM.

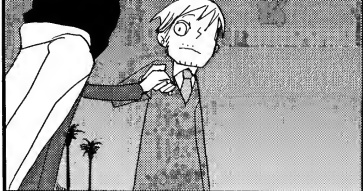
IF YOU
LEAVE...







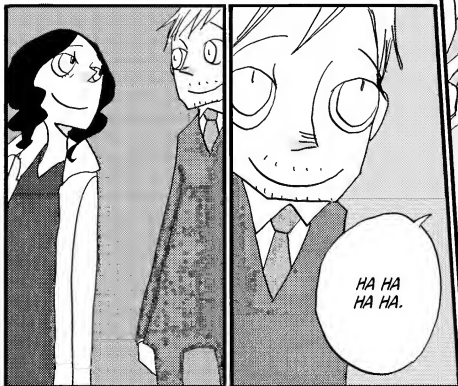
OH,
MY.

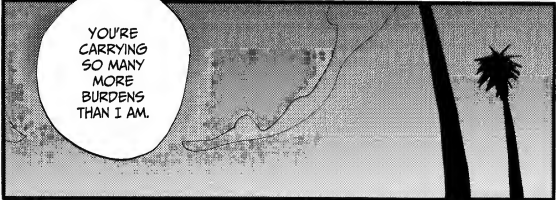


WHOA.



HA HA HA!
YOU'RE
SUCH A
KLUTZ.





YOU'RE
CARRYING
SO MANY
MORE
BURDENS
THAN I AM.



THAT'S
WHY.



WHEN I
SAW YOU
AT THE
DINER...

WHY
DID YOU
SAY YOU
WERE
HAVING
FUN?



I THOUGHT
I MIGHT
BE HAVING
MORE FUN
THAN YOU.

BECAUSE
YOU
LOOKED
LIKE YOU
WEREN'T.



YOU'RE
HARD TO
GRASP.

YOU'RE
NOT
SIMPLE.



BUT I
WANT IT
TO BE
YOU.

AS LONG
AS I HAD
SOMEBODY,
I THOUGHT
IT DIDN'T
MATTER WHO
IT WAS.

AS LONG
AS I WAS
GOING,
I THOUGHT
I COULD
GO ALONE.



YOU'RE
PURE.

INNOCENT, I
GUESS YOU
COULD SAY.

BUT NOT
LIKE A
CHILD.



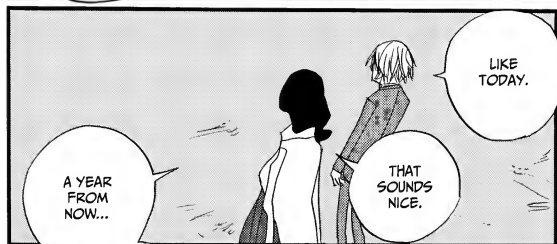
IF ONLY
WE WERE
CLOSER
IN AGE.

IT'S SAD
THAT I HAVE
TO LEAVE
YOU HERE.



WE COULD
MEET AND
SHARE WHAT
HAPPENED
TO US.

SHOULD
WE MAKE
A PROMISE
TO MEET
AGAIN?



A YEAR
FROM
NOW...

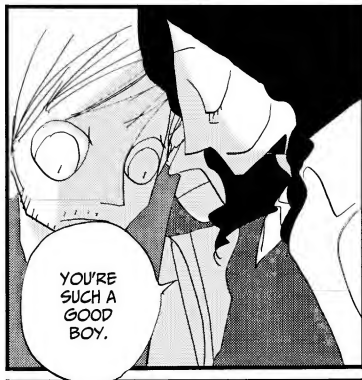
LIKE
TODAY.

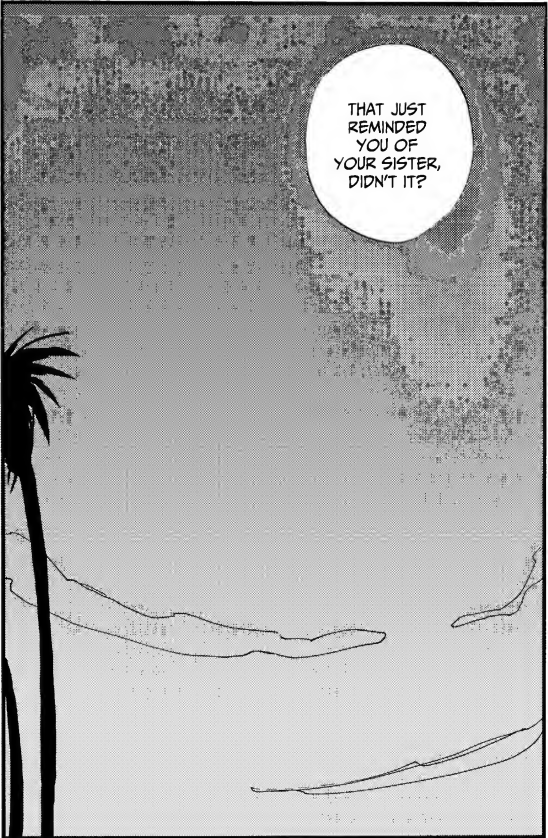
THAT
SOUNDS
NICE.



NO,
THREE
YEARS
FROM
NOW.

ALTHOUGH I
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER
THINGS WILL
BE ALL THAT
DIFFERENT.





THAT JUST
REMINDED
YOU OF
YOUR SISTER,
DIDN'T IT?

end not simple



not simple

VIZ Signature Edition

story and art by Natsume ONO

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